

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – October 28, 2015

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at the Coddington Building. Present were Mr. Paul Bregoli, Ms. Barbara Isola, Mayor Thomas Koch, 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 Mr. DiBona was absent. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Mr. Michael Draicchio, Mr. Matthew Edgerly, Dr. John Franceschini, Mrs. Mary Fredrickson, Ms. Courtney Mitchell, Mrs. Robin Moreira, Mr. James Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Mrs. Maura Papile, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla, Ms. Judy Todd; City Solicitor James Timmins, Public Buildings Director Walter MacDonald; former School Committee member Emily Lebo; Citywide Parent Council Co-President Scott Alessandro; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; and Student Representatives to School Committee Sarah Clancy and Lucy Zheng (Quincy High School).

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There was a moment of silence for members of the armed services serving overseas.

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Ms. Isola made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for October 14, 2015. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting
Minutes Approved
10/14/15

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Mrs. Courtney Perdios spoke on the issue of advanced curriculum opportunities for elementary schools student.

Open Forum

Ms. Alexis Veith spoke about Special Education equity in the Quincy Public Schools.

Mr. Scott Alessandro spoke on behalf of the Executive Board of the Citywide Parent Council. Citywide's mission is to be a resource for parents and students,

and he encouraged continued exploration of expansion of middle school foreign language, analysis of delivery of services for Special Education students, and the role of standardized testing in schools.

Mayor Koch made a motion to take the agenda out of order and moved to the Sterling Middle School presentation (New Business V.B).

Dr. DeCristofaro reviewed the meeting with the MSBA Facilities Assessment Subcommittee held earlier in the day. Today’s meeting was a review of the educational plan and how it will be served in the new building. The efforts of the Quincy Public Schools administration and the Sterling Middle School staff in preparing the Preferred Schematic Design for review were well-received. Feedback will be provided and changes integrated for the full MSBA Board Meeting on November 18.

New Business
Sterling Middle School
Presentation

Mr. Scott Dunlap from Ai3 shared the MSBA presentation which focused on the deficiencies of the current building and the recommendation that construction of a new building is more economical than a renovation of the existing structure. The preliminary Sterling Middle School site plan was shared and a concept of locating a new building behind the existing building shared. The new school would be removed from the Granite Street frontage and scaled back to blend in with surrounding structures. Mr. Dunlap emphasized that this is a very preliminary site plan, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done, including public neighborhood meetings.

Mr. McCarthy thanked Mr. Dunlap for his presentation, it is great to see the project moving quickly into the design phase. Mrs. Mahoney asked about the cost estimates for building new versus renovation. Mr. Dunlap said the cost estimate covers the cost of demolition and restoring the former building site to green space.

Mrs. Mahoney asked about the dropoff area on Granite Street; the preliminary site plan calls for a dedicated lane. Mr. Dunlap said the MSBA suggested further exploration around parking and dropoff. Mrs. Mahoney said the issue will be to maintain the neighborhood feel while addressing the traffic needs.

Mrs. Mahoney asked when the detailed project budget will be available. Assuming the MSBA Board approves the move into the Schematic Design phase on November 18, the project budget will be developed over the next 4-6 months.

Mr. McCarthy said that discussions at Building Committee meetings have covered parking, access, abutters, and drainage. Mr. McCarthy said that School Committee members will receive questions from parents and members of the public, the Sterling Building Committee will make sure all are addressed.

Mayor Koch thanked the presenters, a phenomenal team has been assembled for this project. At this early stage in the process, Mayor Koch would like to see the

Parks Department and Public Works involved in the discussion.

Ms. Isola thanked the presenters and reminded the public that the Sterling Building Committee meetings are open to the public and posted through the City Clerk's office.

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Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report by reviewing upcoming Quincy School Community Partnership events: the Mini-Grants Reception on November 12 at 3:00 pm where 80 professional staff members will receive grants to enhance classroom instruction. On October 19, the first annual Health Symposium was held in partnership with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Representatives from school Wellness team developed Health & Wellness goals.

Superintendent's
Report

Open Houses will be held this week at both high schools for Grade 8 students and their families. Quincy High School was on Tuesday, October 27 and North Quincy High School will be Thursday, October 29.

Academic Facilitators are funded through the Quincy Public Schools Budget: Health Educators, Library, Music, Art, Physical Education, and Speech and Occupational Therapy. These facilitators create Professional Development opportunities for their teams throughout the school year.

American Education Week is celebrated the week of November 16 and the annual Essay & Poster contest is underway. Contest winners will be recognized at the December 9 School Committee Meeting at Central Middle School at 6:00 pm.

Upcoming Parent Academies will be held on November 17 at Central and December 1 at Atlantic featuring information on elementary standards-based report cards and Aspen for parents.

The Massachusetts Music Educators Association awarded a Future Symphony Hall Scholars Grant for \$1,750 for special instrumental lessons to Quincy Public Schools high school students.

183 North Quincy and Quincy High School seniors qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarships, awarded by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Recipients scored at least one Advanced in Mathematics, ELA, or Science on the 2014 MCAS and Proficient or above on the other two sections and overall were in the top 25% of the district. 83% of the recipients have been Quincy Public Schools students since elementary school.

Adams Scholarship recipients are: *Grace Anderson, Laqueen Arias, Grace Baker, Daisy Ban, Mahmoud Berikaa, Liam Bourgeois, Aidan Brown, Kalima Bukenya, Ann-Estelle Burke, Eliane Cabral, Wei Chung Cai, Kara Ann Carchedi, Sabrina Carlin, Otavio Carvalho, Marissa*

Cawley, Wai Yin Chan, Parawat Changthong, Lily Chapman, Jayda Chase, Alan Chen, Hellen Chen, Karen Chen, Amy Chieu, Raymond Ching, Katherine Choi, Wilson Chong Mei, Sarah Clancy, Alison Coleman, Stephen Condon, Theresa Cronin, Ryan Dang, Michael DeAmicis, Victoria Deery, Alexander DeJesus, Alexander DeMass, Ryan Der, Grace Dinh, Brendan Doherty, Shaina Donovan, Julia Doyle, Cameron Ebrecht, Matthew Enos, Zachary Erickson, Quinlan Evans, Robert Fitzgerald, Megan Fox, Sarah Franklin, Jonathan Frois, Langwen Guan, Corrinne Hartford, Tiffany He Lam, Quan Ho, Anehela Hoti, Gary Hu, Carmen Huang, Emily Huang, Zixuan Huang, Suzanna Hui, Elizabeth Huynh, Christopher Iacobucci, Junbong Jang, Andrew Jayne, Nicholas Kazangian, Emily Kelly, Nicholas Kelly, Manal Khan, Trevor Kirby, Genderson Lai Ng, Ryan Langers, Janice Lau, Anna Laugelle, Hanson Le, Samantha Le, Tien Phu Le, Justin Lee, Jia Yin Li, Jenni Liang, Jia Liu, Jia Jia Liang, Kelly Liang, Kevin Liang, Trina Liang, Christopher Llaga, Lauren Lo, Stephanie Lopez, Xinying Lu, Jennifer Luo, Nguyen Ly, Megi Maci, Jonathan Maung, Matthew McDonald, Thomas McLaughlin, Garrett McMorrow, Michael McNelly, Jamie Meade, Nelson Mei, Scott Mele, Edward Merrigan, Catherine Mitchell, Jenna Morris, Benjamin Morse, Conor Mortimer, Stiv Mucollari, Michael Nazzaro, Julie Nguyen, Michael Nguyen, Christine Norton, Kelly Ann O'Connor, Emma O'Donnell, Ariana Paulo, David Pham, Luu Pham, Matthew Pham, Tiffany Pham, Thoma Qafko, Aditya Raj, Samantha Reardon, Benjamin Regan, Maeve Riordan, Brian Rooney, Peter Saccoach, Katherine Sautter, Fernanda Segura, Lincy Shen, Jenny Shi, Annie Shtino, Robert Smith, Aidan Smyth, Asajeon Soriano, Michael Soricelli, Scarlett Stanhope, Katherine Stevenson, Vicki Szeto, Sammy Szeto, Anxhelo Tahoe, Miller Tan, Raymond Tan, Tiffany Tang, Wilson Tang, Bernardo Teixeira, Shannon Tierney, Regina Tham, Nassim Touil, Sylvene Tran, Vivian Tran-Vo, Han Ngoc Truong, Jason Truong, Michael Truong, Michael T Truong, Selina Tsang, Leona Tu, Ryan Tucker, Douglas Van Gorder, Jackson Vo, Kyle Vo, Marty Vo, Emily Wade, Alicia Walker, Jia Wang, Ye Yang Wang, Cameron White, Kathy Wong, Yunting Wong, Jack Wu, Kevin Wu, Yi Jie Wu, Huiyi Wu Liang, Lanny Xie, Peishan Xie, Jia Xu, Stephanie Zeng, Yuming Zeng, Joyce Zhang, Lucy Zhang, Yu Ying Zhang, Wei Zheng, Yu Juan Zheng, Yu Yang Zheng, Jessie Zhu, Joseph Zingg, Ken Zou, Vivian Zou, Xhulio Zyba

Dr. DeCristofaro concluded his report by noting that the School~Community Partnership Newsletter had been shared with School Committee.

Mayor Koch left the meeting at 7:50 pm.

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Senior Director of Curriculum Madeline Roy and Director of Data & Assessment Mary Fredrickson presented the Curriculum & Assessment Plan for 2015-2016. Ms. Roy reviewed the history of the transition to the Common Core State Standards, beginning in 2010. Funding for Common Core-aligned text and resources was part of the FY2013-FY2016 budgets, totaling \$1.2 million.

New Business
(resumed)

Curriculum &
Assessment Plan
2015-2016

Mrs. Fredrickson presented on the 2015 MCAS results for Quincy Public Schools. Over the last 10 years, Quincy Public Schools has narrowed the gap between high needs and non-high needs students at Grade 10. In 2015, 100% of non-high needs students were proficient or above on ELA, while 83% of high needs students were proficient or above. In Math, 89% of non-high needs students were proficient or above, and 66% of high needs students. For Science, 86% of non-high needs

students were proficient or above and 63% of high needs students.

In reflecting on the District Goals for the last two years, for ELA, all tested grades sustained gains or increased except Grade 6. High Needs and Students with Disabilities had similar results, and ELL students showed gains at all grade levels. For Mathematics, all tested grades sustained gains or increased. High Needs and Students with Disabilities had increases or sustained growth in all Grades except Grade 6, and ELL students at all grade levels showed growth in 2014 and declines in 2015. For Science, all students, high needs, and ELL students showed growth in Grades 5 and 8 and a slight decline in Grade 10. Students with disabilities showed growth in all grades. Since over 50% of districts took the PARCC Assessment, state level performance data is not a comparison to all other districts, but a representative sample of the cities and towns that gave the MCAS Assessment.

At the district level, goals for 2015-2016 will focus on the Anchor Standard for Reading and Total Average Percent Correct for Mathematics, and an improvement level of 1%, while continuing to emphasize increasing achievement of High Needs students. The Curriculum & Assessment Team is providing guidance for principals by defining proficiency – what students need to do to function at a high level of achievement. Proficiency statements were developed through analysis of district assessment results, the guiding principles of the MA Curriculum Framework, actual language from the Content and Practice Standards, and the PARCC model curriculum frameworks. These proficiency statements will help educators plan curriculum, units of instruction, and daily lessons to help learners improve their performance.

In preparing for Next-Generation Assessments, curriculum materials are continued to be aligned, instructional practices shifted towards digital learning, higher-order thinking tasks, and technology-enhanced items. Potential shifts in assessment are being addressed through practice opportunities, pilot diagnostics, and sample practice PARCC items.

Dr. DeCristofaro reviewed resources that provide background on the state's pending decision about what assessment will be used in Spring 2016. The PARCC consortium originally consisted of 20 states, but many have withdrawn and are creating their own next-generation assessment. There are disagreements about performance levels and concern about the amount of time spent on testing. On November 17, 2015, the Massachusetts Board of Education will make a decision on what the state's assessment format will be for Spring 2016. The Commissioner of Education has publicly stated that he is considering a third option, an "MCAS 2.0." and will email superintendents directly in early November. Public comment is scheduled to conclude on November 16.

Mr. McCarthy thanked the presenters, saying that the late date of the decision will put Massachusetts at a disadvantage. He asked what the School Committee can do to assist the Curriculum & Assessment and Principal Teams in the meantime until

the decision is made. Dr. DeCristofaro said that at next week's MASC meeting, resolutions will be discussed, including considering 2016 as a pilot Assessment year where results are not shared and districts are held harmless. He also suggested that the Quincy School Committee could draft its own resolution.

Mrs. Mahoney asked what feedback has come out from other communities. Dr. DeCristofaro said the message from most superintendents is that the state needs to slow down, whatever is decided should be a pilot. The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents has also released a position paper supporting the slower implementation of the next-generation assessment.

Mrs. Mahoney said School Committee voted to stay with MCAS to retain access to the data and the information it provides for schools. The test is in the background of all instruction, although it doesn't show proof of intelligence, it is required. We lost time last winter due to the snow days and that surely affected the results. We have an item in the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee about snow-home work, that is one of the items we can control, while we collaborate with other communities to ensure that our voices are heard.

Dr. DeCristofaro agreed that it was a critical decision to stay with the MCAS Assessment. Mr. Bregoli asked if the states who withdrew from the PARCC consortium saw any change in their federal funding. Dr. DeCristofaro said as long they develop their own standardized testing system, there shouldn't be an effect.

Mr. Bregoli asked Mrs. Fredrickson about reviewing student cohorts as they move through the grades. Mrs. Fredrickson said cohorts don't remain constant, a percentage of students leave and new students arrive every year. The focus on grade levels from year to year allows teachers to assess their effectiveness in reaching students from year to year.

Ms. Isola thanked Mrs. Fredrickson and Ms. Roy, noting that as we look at the individual School Improvement Plans, we also look at each of the subgroups within that school. Ms. Isola heard the Commissioner of Education on the radio yesterday and it is not clear what MCAS 2.0 might look like. While we don't know what assessment our students will have to take, we know that our teachers are teaching the curriculum and students are learning, regardless of how they will be assessed. No issues with the concept of assessment, but not knowing what the assessment will be is a bit scary, especially in terms of administration and technology preparedness.

In terms of making a statement through MASC, we would need to convene a Subcommittee to prepare and vote prior to the convention beginning on November 4.

Ms. Isola made a motion to move developing a resolution for the MASC Conference into Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Bregoli seconded the

motion, and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Ms. Isola announced that a Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, November 2 at 5:00 pm.

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Mrs. Hubley reviewed the MASC resolutions that will be voted on at next week's convention.

MASC Conference Resolutions

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to support Resolution 1 to petition the legislature to establish a special commission to study the appropriate starting time for students in middle and high school. Mr. Bregoli seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to support Resolution 2 which advocates for social and economic justice for students and their families. Ms. Isola seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mr. Bregoli made a motion to support Resolution 3 which recommends that assessment data be ascribed to a student's school and district as of October 1 data to follow the Chapter 70 funding formula. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to support Resolution 4 which would provide a more sustainable and equitable placement program for homeless students. Mr. Bregoli seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

There was no motion for Resolution 5 in support of a Tax Reform Ballot Question.

Mr. Bregoli made a motion to support Resolution 6 requesting that a School Committee member be appointed to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Ms. Isola seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mr. Bregoli made a motion to support Resolution 7 which requests that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education end the mandate that districts implement TS Gold or any externally developed kindergarten assessment. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Upcoming meetings were announced: Regular Meetings on November 18, 2015 and December 9, 2015; Subcommittee Meetings for Teaching & Learning on Monday, November 9; Thursday, November 12; and Monday, November 16; Budget & Finance on November 9; and Facilities & Security on November 16.

Communications

Mrs. Hubley announced the Quincy High School Haunted Hallways event from 5:00 pm to 7:30 sponsored by QHS Student Council.

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Mrs. Hubley noted that all Subcommittee meeting minutes are posted online at www.quincypublicschools.com.

Reports of
Subcommittees

Mrs. Mahoney reviewed the Special Education Subcommittee Meeting held on October 21, 2015. Special Education Director Judy Todd presented the Special Education Program Improvement Plan, reflecting on last year’s goals and presenting 2015-2016 goals for the Special Education team and the program teams. A Rights and Responsibility presentation was also shared by Special Education Team Administrators, an annual requirement. QPAC presented their goals, which are focused on increasing parent involvement and positive interactions by creating community-wide and program-based events.

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Ms. Isola reviewed the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee Meeting held on October 27, 2015. High School Principals Robert Shaw and Lawrence Taglieri presented the High School Improvement Plans, Executive Director Keith Segalla presented the Career & Technical Education Program Improvement Plan, and ELL Director Elizabeth Hallett presented the English Language Learner Program Improvement Plan.

As there were no corrections to the meeting minutes for the October 21, 2015 Special Education Subcommittee and the October 27, 2015 Teaching & Learning Subcommittee Meeting minutes, the minutes were approved as presented.

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Mr. McCarthy made a motion to adjourn for the evening at 9:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bregoli and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment