

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – January 11, 2017

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at the Coddington Building. The Superintendent called the roll and present were Mayor Thomas Koch, Mr. James DeAmicis, Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, Ms. Barbara Isola, Mrs. Emily Lebo, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, and Mr. Paul Bregoli, Vice Chair.

Regular Meeting

Vice-Chair Presiding

Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Mr. Michael Draicchio, Ms. Beth Hallett, Mr. James Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Mrs. Maura Papile, Mrs. Erin Perkins, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mr. Robert Shaw; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; Citywide Parent Council Co-President Courtney Perdios; and Quincy High School Student Representative Owen Doherty.

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There was a moment of silence for Ida Jay, who worked for over 20 years in the Quincy Public Schools Business Office.

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Mrs. Hubley made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Lebo, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for December 7, 2016. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting Minutes Approved 12.7.16

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Mrs. Courtney Perdios thanked Superintendent DeCristofaro, Senior Director Madeline Roy, and Executive Director Keith Segalla for their recent presentation at the Citywide Parent Council meeting on MCAS 2.0. The presentation slides and a Parent Resources guide are posted on the Quincy Public Schools website. Concerns remain about student preparedness for online test taking. The Citywide Parent Council would like to expand opportunities for technology-based learning, coding, animation, and partner with Quincy Public Schools on this issue.

Open Forum

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Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report with recognition of North Quincy High School Biology, Zoology, and Marine Science teacher Cara Pekarcik who participated in a six-week oceanographic research expedition in the

Superintendent's Report

Southern Ocean off the coast of Antarctica this past fall through PolarTREC. The research goal was to collect water samples and diatoms and ocean data. Ms. Pekarcik thanked the National Science Foundation for the grant funding that supported the trip. Ms. Isola thanked Ms. Pekarcik for her bravery in undertaking this adventure, which will really enhance student learning. Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Ms. Pekarcik, Principal Shaw and the whole staff at North Quincy High School are so proud as we all are for representing the Quincy Public Schools so far from home.

Dr. DeCristofaro noted that the North Quincy High School Quiz Show team will be taping the first round of the *High School Quiz Show* at WGBH on January 21.

Coordinator of Health Services Rita Bailey presented on the upcoming Matter of the Heart health initiative and CPR training being held in the first week of February. For the third year of the program, Quincy Public Schools is fortunate to have Brewster Ambulance Services as an educational partner. During the week of January 30-February 3, all Grade 8 students will learn about the cardiovascular system and CPR. On Saturday, February 4, all Grade 8 students and family members have the opportunity to take a free full CPR certification course at Central Middle School.

On February 9, the Student Council Leadership event for Grade 5 Student Council members will be held at the Tirrell Room. Student council members from both high schools and the YMCA will work with the Grade 5 students on leadership activities.

Senior Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile presented on last week's Substance Use Prevention & Education Week, funded by the Mayor's Office and the Peter Thompson Family, and organized by the Health Interventionists and Nurses at both high schools. Travis Roy spoke to all Grade 11 students about living a purposeful life. Health Fairs were held at each high school with many community representatives from Manet Health, Quincy Police, Health, and Fire Departments, parent representatives, and the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office. A Healthy Choices Family Night will be held in the spring, more information to come.

Executive Director Keith Segalla updated School Committee on the technology upgrades underway through the Mayor's Capital Improvement Plan. Individual desktop computers for staff and administrators have been installed and computer lab upgrades are underway. Installation of Eno boards and short throw projectors will begin the week of January 30 and finish by the end of February. Thanks to City IT Director Chuck Phelan and his staff and the School IT technicians for their efforts.

Mr. Segalla also announced that a Massachusetts Life Science Center grant for technology and equipment was awarded to Quincy Public Schools, \$122,000 for

five mobile carts of 10 Surface tablets, five 3-D printers, and robotics equipment kits. Funding will also be available for summer 2017 technology programming.

Senior Curriculum Director Madeline Roy reviewed the MCAS 2.0 initiative underway throughout Quincy Public Schools. As DESE releases guidance documents, the Curriculum & Assessment Team is reviewing the guidelines and recommendations and is working with site-based teams at each elementary and middle school to create training opportunities, prioritizing Grade 4 and 8 student access to the computer labs. Practice tests will be released later in January. Middle school Tech Engineering and Library Media Specialists have created a tutorial so all staff can learn about embedded technology tools for the online testing and alignment of their curriculum and areas for coverage. Mrs. Lebo asked Ms. Roy about technical skills at the elementary levels; some work is being done in the classrooms, also with Library Support Teachers, and some before and after school extracurricular opportunities. Dr. DeCristofaro noted that a future meeting will be scheduled with the Citywide Parent Council on this topic.

Mrs. Mahoney asked about Grade 3 students having the opportunity to learn about these online tools. Ms. Roy said that while Grades 4 and 8 are the priorities, any opportunity to expand to other grades will be taken. Ms. Roy said a curriculum will be developed this summer for Fall 2017 implementation and expand to all grades. Mrs. Mahoney expressed a concern about before/after school programs, will there be space for all students interested. Ms. Roy said that anyone interested will be accommodated, schools are approaching this creatively in order to serve all students. Dr. DeCristofaro said that in this week's Principal Team meeting, there was discussion of balancing enrichment and assessment preparation opportunities. Mrs. Mahoney noted that all school districts are facing this dilemma, the resources and tools are not yet available and some will be new to both teachers and students.

Dr. DeCristofaro reviewed that the Massachusetts School Building Authority partnership continues with ongoing work at the Sterling Middle School, as construction documents are being finalized. Dr. DeCristofaro is also working with Principal Franceschini on next year's schedule for Physical Education as the gymnasium will be removed from the building over the summer. Statements of Interest for new projects are due in February for Accelerated Repair Program projects and the Squantum SOI will be refreshed in April.

Upcoming events include the Lincoln Hancock Family Literacy Night, January 19 at 5:30 pm. The first Parent Academy of the new year will be a two-part event held on January 12 and 26, the Homework Treaty for parents of students in Grades 3-8.

Dr. DeCristofaro concluded his report by noting Program Newsletters for Band, Health Services, Student Support, and Extended Education had been shared

with School Committee. He also thanked Mayor Koch and the Quincy City Council for appropriating \$275,000 to remediate the sinks and bubblers that had tested above action levels for lead and copper and to refurbish the Montclair Elementary School nurse’s bathroom.

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Mrs. Lebo made a motion to accept the revisions to School Committee Policy Book Section 1 as presented. Mayor Koch seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0.

Old Business

School Committee Policy Book, Revisions to Section 1 (Vote)

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Director of English Language Education Beth Hallett presented on the Office of Central Registration. Central Registration’s mission is to provide enrollment services for all new immigrant families whose first language is not English and assist in registering their students for school, including language assessment for English Learners in the Quincy Public Schools. Increases have been seen each year, with 300 new students having registered through Central Registration to date this school year. Data of registrations by school and grade was shared, with the largest concentration of students at Kindergarten and Grade 1, although there are a large number of students enrolling for high school. More than half of new students are classified as Level 1 English Learners.

New Business

Central Registration

Due to the growing numbers and changing populations, in the last two years, Central Registration has increased staff and hours to be open every day. Central Registration has two full time staff members and six part-time staff members. In addition, the Quincy Asian Resource Outreach Director visits twice per week to provide information and consultation on specific community resources and language assistance.

Registration Administrator Nikoletta Pratt reviewed the process which begins with scheduling an appointment with a new family and reviewing the list of required documents. Forms are completed with the family during the intake process, along with a family interview, a process that can take two or more hours, including copies of supporting documentation and preparation of a Cumulative Record Folder. Central Registration Nurse Patricia Cardarelli reviews student immunization and physical records, and any follow up needs will be documented in writing for the family.

New students are assessed for English Language proficiency, which takes 30-45 minutes and may be done simultaneously as the intake process is being done with parents. The WIDA ACCESS Placement Test is the tool used and places students in one of six levels. Students who place between Levels 1 and 5 will receive English Language instruction. There are additional assessments for incoming High School students, a wordless mathematics tests and an additional writing sample.

Parents with outstanding documents or tasks may return at any time to complete registration. Families who cannot provide two valid proofs of residency will be visited by one of the Attendance Officers prior to registration being completed, including possible night visits. Once registration is complete, information is entered into Aspen as a pre-registration and then the student folder is released to the school for scheduling and the student's start of school.

Ms. Hallett reiterated that an important part of the Central Registration mission is to Welcome English Learners and their families. The staff can provide language assistance and outside resources are available for other languages as needed. Each family receives a grade-level appropriate Welcome Folder, including translated instructions on accessing Aspen. Thanks to the Quincy School Community Partnership, each new student receives a backpack and school supplies. Continued support to new families is provided by the Family Liaison who contacts families after two weeks to discuss how the transition has gone.

Mrs. Lebo complimented the team, noting how much the process has evolved. Mrs. Lebo asked about students with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE). These students sometimes arrive with no records, so grade placement can be tricky. At the high school level, classes are mixed with students from Grades 9-12, but students must accumulate the number of credits needed to graduate. At the elementary and middle school level, students are placed according to their age as much as possible, with extra supports. Mrs. Lebo asked about students with missing documentation and the allowable time that can elapse without a student being in school. Ms. Pratt said they work to get students into school as quickly as possible.

Mr. Bregoli is concerned about the residency issue. Ms. Pratt said that since many families are newly arrived, they do not have bank accounts or utility bills, so multiple residency visits will be performed including night visits. Most new families require home visits. Mr. Bregoli would like to see the RV1, RV2, and RV3 forms highlight the law about residency more prominently. Mrs. Lebo asked if we ever follow up requesting documentation when it is available. Ms. Pratt said she believes that this is done at the school level.

Mrs. Mahoney noted that residency checks are done for many new Quincy families, not just those registering through Central Registration. Mrs. Mahoney asked about summer availability. Ms. Hallett said Central Registration is closed from the end of the school year through mid-August.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked the Central Registration for the streamlined process, the transition and support provided is so important for families. We have improved incredibly in the last few years.

Dr. DeCristofaro reviewed that the Quincy Teen Mothers Program has been dissolved and remaining funds are available to transfer to the Quincy Public Schools budget to cover the anticipated staffing deficit for 3.0 positions, including the transfer of the nursing position to Central Middle School and to work with unaccompanied youth. Mayor Koch has approved this transfer of \$172,000.

New Business  
Budget Transfer

Mrs. Lebo made a motion to accept the Quincy Teen Mothers Program funds transfer and apply \$172,000 to the salary line of the FY2017 budget. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

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The next item on the agenda, the Advanced Placement Pathway update will be deferred to an upcoming Teaching & Learning meeting.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to support Milton Public Schools joining the South Shore Educational Collaborative. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0.

New Business  
Milton Public Schools to Join the SSEC (Vote)

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Mr. DeAmicis made a motion to approve the April 12-20, 2017 Out of the Country Travel of North Quincy High School to Florence, Venice, and Rome, Italy. Mayor Koch seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business  
Out of the Country Travel

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Mr. DeAmicis made a motion to approve the May 31-June 2, 2017 Out of State travel of Sterling Middle School Grade 8 to New York City, New York. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business  
Out of State Travel (Overnight)

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Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the Overnight Travel (In-State) of Quincy High School Student Council to the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils Conference in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Mr. DeAmicis seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business  
Overnight Travel (In-State)

Mr. DeAmicis made a motion to approve the June 14-16, 2017 Overnight travel of Central Middle School Grade 7 to Camp Wing, Duxbury, Massachusetts. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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As there was no Additional Business, School Committee moved to the next item on the agenda. Additional Business

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Upcoming meetings were announced: School Committee on January 25, 2017 and February 8, 2017, at the Coddington Building at 6:30 pm. Communications

Upcoming Subcommittee meetings were announced: Quarterly Budget & Finance Subcommittee on January 18, 2017 at 5:00 pm, followed by Policy at 5:15 pm and Facilities & Security at 5:30 pm. Teaching & Learning will meet on January 30, 2017 at 5:00 pm. Policy will meet on February 6, 2017 at 5:00 pm, followed by Health, Transportation & Safety at 6:00 pm.

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Mr. Bregoli noted that all School Committee and Subcommittee meeting minutes are posted online at [www.quincypublicschools.com](http://www.quincypublicschools.com). Reports of Subcommittees

Mrs. Mahoney reported on the January 4, 2017 Special Education Subcommittee meeting. Special Education Director Erin Perkins, Sarah Anderson, and Madeline Roy presented Special Education pathways for Elementary, Middle, and High School students. Special Education

As there were no corrections, the minutes for the January 4, 2017 Special Education Subcommittee meeting were approved as presented.

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Mayor Koch made a motion for School Committee to go to Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent’s Contract at 8:10 pm. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0. Executive Session

Mayor Koch noted that School Committee would return to the Regular Meeting at the conclusion of Executive Session.

School Committee returned to Regular Session at 9:15 pm.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to adjourn for the evening at 9:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lebo and on a voice vote, the ayes have it. Adjournment