

*Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – October 5, 2016*

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at the Coddington Building. The Superintendent called the roll and present were Mr. James DeAmicis, Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, Ms. Barbara Isola, Mayor Thomas Koch, 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; Mrs. Rita Bailey, Mr. Michael Connor, Mr. Michael Draicchio, Mr. James Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Mrs. Maura Papile, Mrs. Ann Pegg, Mrs. Erin Perkins, Mr. John Rogan, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mr. Robert Shaw, Mr. Lawrence Taglieri; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; North Quincy High School Student Representative Ryan Fiasconaro; Quincy High School Student Representative Owen Doherty; and Citywide Parent Council Co-President Courtney Perdios.

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There was a moment of silence for members of the armed forces serving overseas and at home.

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Mr. DeAmicis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for September 21, 2016. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting Minutes Approved 9.21.16

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As no one wished to speak at Open Forum, School Committee moved to the next item on the agenda.

Open Forum

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Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report by recognizing the National Merit Scholars from Quincy High School and North Quincy High School. These seniors were of the top 50,000 of the 1.5 million students who took the PSAT across the country; 34,000 are selected as Commended Scholars and 16,000 as Semi-Finalists. This year's Commended Scholars are: Alexander Cox, Tianettie McKee, Amanda Ngo, Tara Nguyen, Ethan Sit, and Sandra Zhen from North Quincy High School and Yaseen Alkhafaji, Liam Rogers, Kristen Tran, and

Superintendent's Report

Rachel Zisk from Quincy High School. Quincy High School's Lisa Barros is a Semi-Finalist and scored in the top 1%.

North Quincy High School Junior Nicholas Andrade was recognized for being the Gold Medalist at the USA Fencing National Championship in the Division 1-A Mens Foil.

The Merrymount Elementary School was recently named as a National Blue Ribbon School. Given by the US Department of Education to 329 public and private schools across the United States, Merrymount is one of three schools in Massachusetts recognized this year. Principal Ann Pegg, Assistant Principal John Rogan, and the staff were recognized for academic excellence and progress closing the achievement gap. Mrs. Pegg cited the teamwork of Merrymount Elementary School staff and the Assessment team. Mrs. Pegg recognized two recently recognized teachers, Mrs. O'Malley and Mrs. Santoro (former Assistant Principal), for their impact on the school. Mrs. Pegg also recognized Ms. Hammerstrom, finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) in Massachusetts.

Mrs. Lebo said the leadership team at Merrymount has been a joy to watch as a grandparent of students at the school. Mrs. Mahoney congratulated the staff of the school, their hard work is being recognized and we are all very proud. Ms. Isola said that the Merrymount teachers are not thinking about awards when they work so hard every day, so this is a very special recognition. Mr. DeAmicis was glad to hear about the teamwork and the efforts of the teachers being rewarded. Mr. Bregoli said as a 22-year veteran of the Merrymount Elementary School, can attest to the positive feeling there from administrators to teachers. This happens every day in all of our Quincy Public Schools. Mayor Koch said that the high school graduation ceremonies are a favorite event of the year, those students success begins at the elementary level. Mayor Koch thanked Mrs. Pegg and the Merrymount staff for serving families of Quincy.

Dr. DeCristofaro said he is proud to be the Superintendent of Quincy Public Schools, so many strengths and positives in our school system. Every year, graduating seniors from Merrymount go on to higher education based on the foundation of their elementary school education. The school staff works together so very well due to the curriculum leadership of Merrymount's Principal and Assistant Principal.

After a brief recess, Dr. DeCristofaro introduced Inspire Quincy, featuring highlights of the Quincy Public Schools including Peer Leaders at Sterling Middle School; the Sterling Middle School 5K Walk/Run; food tasting at Atherton Hough; North Quincy High School Science Teacher Cara Pekarcik's webinar from the Antarctic; the City of Presidents 5K Walk/Run to benefit QPS Health & Wellness activities; and interviews with Kindergarten students at

Montclair Elementary School.

John & Abigail Adams Scholarship winners from the Class of 2017 were recently announced, 182 Quincy Public Schools students will receive tuition waivers for eight semesters at Massachusetts state universities based on their high performance on Grade 10 MCAS assessments (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Biology). Students must score Advanced on at least one MCAS assessment; Proficient or above on the other two; and have combined scores from the three assessments that place them in the top 25% of students in the graduating class in the district. The 97 students from North Quincy High School will be recognized at a ceremony on November 7 and the 75 students from Quincy High School will be recognized on November 1.

North Quincy High School: *Alexander Bui; Samantha Caldwell; James Cannon; Anthony Chan; Darren Chau; Andy Chen; Anna Chen; Calvin Chen; Jessica Chen; Karen Chen; Li Chen; Gary Chi; Janelle Chin; Alexander Cox; Curtis DeBisschop; Allison Della Barba; Abdelrahman Elhashash; Isabelle Flaherty; Anthony Fong; Jin Hong Gan; Brendan Ganno; Hannah Gray; Amanda Hazelton; Johnny He; Skerdilaid Hoti; Ami Huang; Jimmy Huang; Maggie Huang; Mandy Huang; Gary Hui; Sacha Ivanov; Wendi Jiang; Zi Bin Kuang; Jason Kung; Bui Hin Lam; Helen Lam; Man Ching Lam; Thuylan Le; Chia Chien Lee; Vincent Leung; Emily Li; Nathan Li; Wayland Li; Larissa Liang; Li Bin Lin; Alex Liu; Jia Bin Lu; Nina Luu; Priscilla Ly; Vincent Mah; Ryan Manning; Kayleigh Manton; Michelle Mark; Brigham McKee; Tianettie McKee; Shane Mitchell; Declan Murphy; Morgan Murphy; Timothy Ng; Amanda Ngo; Tara Nguyen; Charles O'Brien; Kishan Patel; Linda Phung; Isabelle Pillone; Katarina Pollastretti; Margaret Powers; Dalia Sadaka; Ethan Sit; Matthew Soohoo; Michael Soohoo; Ivy Tang; Allessandra Toscanini; Nhi Truong; Maureen Valli; Leo Vivutanayucun; Quynh Vu; Alex Webb; Magdalena Wierzbowski; Jonathan Wong; Kevin Wong; Raymond Wong; Wilson Wong; Jason Xiao; Jonathan Yip; Tiffany Yong; Yawen Yu; Jun Shan Zeng; Devin Zhang; Maggie Zhang; Mindy Zhang; Sandra Zhen; Charlie Zheng; Mona Zheng; Suki Zhu; Joey Zhuo; Jennifer Zou; Jessica Zou; Karen Zou*

Quincy High School: *Yusra Ahmed; Yaseen Alkhafaji; Nooralbannein Aud Alsaad; Priscilla Anjurthe; Emily Barker; Lisa Barros; Evan Bausemer; Lucia Buzzell; Bailee Carey; Shirley Chen; Joanne Chung; Sammy Cordahi; Joseph Cristiani; Kelan Curran-Cross; Brianne Dane; Owen Doherty; Julia Ford; Emma Fuchs; Leanne Gough; Kania Grant; Eva Gurra; Grace Hall; Michelle Helam; Maeve Herson; Alexander Huynh; Marcus Johnson; Emilia Kapcia; Casey Kelliher; Maysoon Khan; Tien Lam; Daniel Liang; Michelle Lun; Zhiyang Luo; Judy Luu; Vanessa Ly; Mei Chang Ma; Maura MacDonald; Alexandra MacPherson; Jessica Mahoney; Brian Maloney; Colin Maloney; Harold Marcheski; Shauna McColgan; George McGee; Dylan McGowan; Theresa McMillen; Zhuo Feng Mei; Ali Mokalled; Alicia Murphy; Kyle Murphy; Minh Thu Nguyen; Sophia Noble; James O'Leary; Danielle Parry; Luis Pegueroisalguez; Ashley Philibert; Mario Ragusa; Michael Reardon; Joelle Robinson; Liam Rogers; Jacqueline Ryan; Nicole Salvatore; Emma Smyth;*

*Stephanie Stalder; Danny Szeto; Mya Terry; Quan Thi; Eoin Tierney; Yvonne To; Kristen Tran; Vincent Tran; Hillary Valenzuela; Hunter Weinberger; Andy Zhen; Rachel Zisk*

Dr. DeCristofaro updated on Quincy School~Community Partnership events: the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual City of Presidents Road Race was held on Sunday, September 25 and supported by many partners, raising over \$20,000 for the Quincy Public Schools Health & Wellness initiatives. Thanks to Mayor Koch and the members of his staff who planned this event, supported by the Quincy High School Culinary students. Over 100 Educator Mini-Grants will be awarded on November 3 at the Neighborhood Club.

Fifteen Parent Academies are planned for this year; the first event will be held on Thursday, October 6: An Evening with Maria Trozzi at 6:00 pm at Central Middle School. Drop-In Information nights about Dual Enrollment are being held for parents of high school students enrolled in these courses later in October.

The Mentor Team met yesterday at Central Middle School for the first of this year's meetings. Over 80 mentors and new professional staff members are part of the team, chaired by Principal James Hennessy and Senior Curriculum Director Madeline Roy and assisted by retired teachers and administrators.

The Career & Technical Education Advisory Board meetings will be held on Thursday, October 20 at Quincy High School and then again in May 2017.

Professional Educator Status will be awarded to 40 Quincy Public Schools staff members on October 13 at 3:00 pm. The Quincy Public Schools College Fair will be held on October 13 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in the Quincy High School gymnasium. Student Support staff at both high schools have worked to plan this event which will feature representatives from over 80 colleges and universities. High School Open House events will be held for Grade 8 students and families at Quincy High School on October 25 and North Quincy High School on October 27

On Wednesday, October 19 Nobel Laureate Dr. Sheldon Glashow, 1979 Laureate in Physics, will speak to 100 invited students from both high schools. There will be a second visit from a different Nobel Laureate in the winter before the Science Fair. Thanks to Eric Mason from the Mayor's Office and Dr. Ed Shapiro.

Quincy Public Schools October 1, 2016 Enrollment information was shared with School Committee. 9,442 students are presently enrolled, an increase of 101 students over October 1, 2015. For elementary schools, gains of over 20 students were seen at Lincoln Hancock, Montclair, and Parker. For elementary class size averages, Kindergarten and Grade 5 average 20 students, while Grades 1-4 average 19 students. Open Enrollment request trends were shared

for both Kindergarten and Grades 1-5.

For middle schools, Broad Meadows had an increase in population of 32 students. (A larger grade 6 entered replacing a small Grade 8 class departing last June.) For class size, 94% of all middle school core academic classes have 24 or fewer students. High school class size is favorable with 88% of core class sections having 25 or fewer students. Open enrollment trends for both middle and high school have remained consistent, with 100% of high school requests being granted. Dr. DeCristofaro suggested further review of this data in a future Facilities & Security Subcommittee meeting.

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Mrs. Isola made a motion to approve the revised Concussion Policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0.

Old Business  
Concussion Policy (Vote)

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Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the revised Medication Administration Policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lebo and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0.

Old Business  
Medication Administration Policy Update (Vote)

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Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the Substance Use, Education, and Prevention Policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAmicis and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0.

Old Business  
Substance Use, Education, and Prevention Policy (Vote)

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Coordinator of Health Services Rita Bailey presented the Health Services Program Improvement Plan, reviewing 2015-2016 goals and achievements. Using the Healthy Schools Framework, school Wellness teams completed their assessments and set goals and action steps at the Health Symposium. The school nurses collaborated on creating a Health Services page on Aspen to streamline communication between school nurses and families. High School nurses collaborated on student wellness about healthy choices, including the Pay It Forward peer leader program and substance abuse awareness events.

New Business  
Health Services Program Improvement Plan

For 2016-2017, Health Services is proposing a continuation of last year’s goals. The Alliance for Healthier Generation grant has concluded, but online consultation is still available. Nurses will continue to maintain their Health Information page and communicate with families. In the area of Crisis Management/School Emergency Triage Training, nurses have attended a disaster preparedness

program that provides knowledge, resources, and tools for providing effective emergency care.

Health Services documented 88,000 student encounters and a 93% return to class rate. Over 2,000 students with long-term health issues were supported. School nurses collaborated on concussion management (51 during school sports, 59 outside of school) and over 9,000 prescribed dosages of medication were given. Four health paraprofessionals assist with screening, data entry, and parent interactions, thanks to the Mayor and School Committee for continued funding of these positions. Vision, hearing, BMI, postural screenings are done annually. In collaboration with the Department of Public Health, dental screenings and sealants are offered to students in pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Grades 2, 6, 8, and 9.

Mr. DeAmicis thanked Mrs. Bailey for the wealth of information provided in the Health Services Program Improvement Plan.

Mr. DeAmicis made a motion to accept the Health Services Program Improvement Plan. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lebo and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0.

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Senior Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile, Quincy High School Principal Lawrence Taglieri, and North Quincy High School Principal Robert Shaw presented the Diversity Competency Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to provide our students and staff with the tools needed to thrive in a diverse world; communicate more effectively across differences; create a non-judgmental atmosphere which allows for challenges and accountability without accusation and blame; analyze complex issues regarding race, class, gender, and other differences at the interpersonal, institutional, and cultural levels; and create strategies for inclusion that allow for engagement of all students so they can perform to their full potential.

New Business

Diversity & Respect Initiative Update

Consultants from Visions Inc. will assist with creating environments where differences are recognized, understood, appreciated, and utilized for the benefit of all. Students are taught to hold a “both/and” perspective and to look at multiple levels, while increasing empathy and the complexity of thinking-leading to increasingly wise and effective action.

Mr. Taglieri spoke of professional development opportunities provided to Quincy High School staff last spring about perspectives, which received overwhelmingly positive response from staff. Many cited this as a good introduction and requested more support in analyzing complex issues regarding race, class, gender, and other differences at the personal, interpersonal, and institutional cultural levels. North Quincy High School staff will receive the training on October 11 and the two staffs

will work together in November.

Mr. Shaw reviewed the presentation “You Don’t Know Me Until You Know Me” shared with students at both high schools in September, which focused on messages of tolerance and respect for self and others. Follow up was with students through written responses and roundtable discussion.

Mrs. Lebo said this is an incredible program, a great pre-emptive strike on an important issue and a strong connection to social-emotional learning. Mrs. Mahoney agreed this is something that makes Quincy Public Schools unique and gives students the tools to handle difficult situations. Mrs. Mahoney recently observed students standing up for other students in a situation where they are made to feel uncomfortable.

Ms. Isola said so often these programs are instituted as a result of something bad happening, thanked the presenters for being pro-active.

Mr. Bregoli asked how the initiative will be integrated into the curriculum. Mrs. Papile said this is an area for exploration with the staff through professional development. Enforcing listening and speaking carefully is integral to the success, and explorations on extending this to middle school as part of PBIS are underway.

Dr. DeCristofaro said that the more our staff and students communicate, great things will happen. The staff evaluations were very thoughtful and will encourage further conversation.

Mayor Koch left the meeting at 8:00 pm.

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Mrs. Papile then presented the Student Support Services Program Improvement Plan. Student Support initiatives and goals are collaborative effort of guidance counselors, school psychologists, physical & health education staff, the homelessness coordinator, and the supervisors of attendance. Reflecting on last year’s goals, the PBIS initiative for elementary & middle schools continued to be implemented and high schools focused on program improvements for college and career readiness and drop-out prevention. Mrs. Papile noted that once again, Quincy Public Schools has one of the best graduation rates for urban districts in Massachusetts.

New Business

Student Support Services Program Improvement Plan

Student Support goals for this year are focused on updating the Student Support guidelines and procedures, continuing with PBIS site-based support, Substance Abuse Prevention, the Diversity Competency Initiative, Career and College Readiness. PBIS is a continuation goal because this is a cultural change and will continue to evolve to ensure the acknowledgment of all children. Mrs. Papile shared the timelines for Substance Abuse and Diversity Competence, highlighting

specific events. For middle school students, PBIS will integrate the concepts of diversity and respect. The Health Educators focus on healthy decision-making for students and families, pro-social skills, and building protective factors. The Supervisors of Attendance have focused on attendance issues and the impact on education, in addition to night visits to surface residency issues. The Homelessness Coordinator assists with many issues around ensuring consistency for students and integrating the facets of the Every Student Succeeds Act

Last year, 35 night checks were performed and 39 students discharged and 16 were not enrolled due to this check. 250 residency checks have already been completed this school year, as each case goes through several visits.

Mrs. Lebo said that this is a very comprehensive and complete plan; it is unfortunate that the DDM issue has detracted from other important issues for these educators. Mrs. Lebo asked about high-risk students; there is a report due at the end of the year, how is this analyzed throughout the school year. Mrs. Papile said that these are ongoing conversations throughout the year, supports are adjusted as needed. Mrs. Lebo said that the Student Support team is not giving themselves enough credit for the work they do. Mrs. Lebo asked about middle school goal relating to high school expectations. Mrs. Papile said that the middle school guidance counselors are looking at student engagement and attitude adjustment under PBIS as factors in contributing to successful transitions.

Mrs. Lebo asked whether there has been a decline in participation or SAT scores since the school-day preparation classes have been eliminated. Mrs. Papile said alternative opportunities for preparation are provided through guidance, and will follow up with participation statistics. Mrs. Lebo asked about School Psychologists developing lessons, how are these implemented. Mrs. Papile said the psychologists go into the classroom to teach about expected behaviors. Mrs. Lebo would like to see Student Support Services statistics like those presented for Health Services, everyone works so hard and wishes there was a way to quantify their interactions with students.

Mr. Bregoli asked about the transition letters mailed to students entering Grades 6 and 9. Mrs. Papile confirmed that a residency check was performed on all families with returned mail. Mr. Bregoli was pleased to hear that Drug Story Theater will be performed for Grade 8 and would like to see more substance abuse education at the middle school level. Mrs. Papile agreed and said the Improbable Players will be presenting for Grade 7. Middle school SADD chapters are being created with assistance from the high school counselors.

Ms. Isola made a motion to approve the Student Support Services Program Improvement Plan. Mr. DeAmicis seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 6-0. Mayor Koch was absent.



Ms. Isola made a motion to approve the Out of State travel of Quincy High School to the University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire on November 2, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business  
Out of State  
Travel (One Day)

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Upcoming meetings were announced: School Committee on October 19, 2016; and November 9, 2016, both at 6:30 pm at the Coddington Building. On December 7, 2016, the School Committee meeting will be held at Central Middle School at 6:00 pm.

Communications

Upcoming Subcommittee meetings were announced: Policy on October 12, 2016; Teaching & Learning on October 24, 2016; November 2, 2016; November 15, 2016; and November 16, 2016. Special Education on October 26, 2016 at 6:00 pm. Budget & Finance Subcommittee will meet on November 14, 2016 at 5:00 pm, followed by the Facilities & Security Subcommittee at 5:30 pm.

Dr. DeCristofaro announced that the Wollaston Elementary School Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, October 15 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

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Mr. Bregoli noted that minutes are available online on the School Committee page of the Quincy Public Schools website: [www.quincypublicschools.com](http://www.quincypublicschools.com).

Reports of  
Subcommittees

Mr. Bregoli reported on the Policy Subcommittee held on September 26, 2016. In addition to reviewing the three Policies voted on during Old Business, the Technology & Training Program Improvement Plan was reviewed.

Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Isola moved to approve the Technology & Training Program Improvement Plan. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 6-0. Mayor Koch was absent.

As there were no corrections, the meeting minutes for the September 26, 2016 Policy Meeting were accepted as presented.

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Ms. Isola reported on the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meeting held on October 3, 2016. Three Program Improvement Plans were presented for the Literacy, Title I, and Early Childhood programs.

Reports of  
Subcommittees

Mrs. Hubley moved to approve the Early Childhood Program Improvement Plan. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 6-0. Mayor Koch was absent.

Teaching & Learning  
Subcommittee

Mrs. Hubley moved to approve the Literacy Program Improvement Plan. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 6-0. Mayor Koch was absent.

Mrs. Hubley moved to approve the Title I Program Improvement Plan. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 6-0. Mayor Koch was absent.

Ms. Isola also reviewed the process for the Superintendent's Evaluation. Dr. DeCristofaro will present his self-evaluation on October 19. School Committee will complete the evaluation forms by November 2 and the forms will be compiled into a composite evaluation to be presented on November 9, 2016.

As there were no corrections, the meeting minutes for the October 3, 2016 Teaching & Learning Meeting were accepted as presented.

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Mrs. Hubley made a motion to adjourn for the evening at 8:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lebo and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment