

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – November 9, 2016

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at the Coddington Building. The Superintendent called the roll and present were 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, Dr. John Franceschini, Ms. Higgins-Steele, Mr. Michael Marani, Mr. James Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Mrs. Maura Papile, Mrs. Erin Perkins, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; Quincy High School Student Representative Owen Doherty.

Mayor Koch was absent.

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There was a moment of silence for long-time Quincy Public Schools Physical Therapist Patrick Barry, who passed away suddenly last week.

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Ms. Isola made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for October 19, 2016. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting Minutes Approved 10.19.16

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

Open Forum

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Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report with Inspire Quincy, featuring the Quincy Lodge of Elks donation of dictionaries to all Grade 3 students; Callahan Construction tour for Career & Technical Education students; Middle School Tennis; the Quincy Band Boosters grant from the Music Drives Us Foundation; the Close Reading Parent Academy for middle school parents; Middle School Cross-Country; the Educator Mini-Grant reception; and NQHS Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD).

Dr. DeCristofaro spoke about recent Quincy Public Schools events, including the Middle School Parent Academy on Close Reading. About 30 parents attended this very topical presentation and the evening received many positive evaluations, plus ideas for future workshops from parents. 55 middle school students competed last Saturday at the state Cross-Country Championships in Devin. The Educator Mini-Grant Ceremony was held on November 3, sponsored by Quincy Retired Teachers Association. 16 business partners gave over 100 grants.

Dr. DeCristofaro noted that the 2016 Holiday Concert Schedule was shared with School Committee and 'Tis the Season will be held on Thursday, December 1 at Quincy High School, featuring the Quincy Symphony Orchestra and students from the middle and high school band and combined high school select chorus.

Water testing results continue to come in, 630 sinks and bubblers have been tested. Results are shared with parents as they are received and action items have been addressed: sinks are labeled for handwashing only and bubblers are turned off. Water coolers will be installed on Thursday at schools where bubblers have been turned off. Thanks to former Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Public Health Suzanne Condon for her assistance in creating the response to testing plan, crafting the letter to staff and families, and presenting at the parent meeting held at Bernazzani on Monday, November 7.

Creedon Field will be dedicated on Saturday, November 19 at noon (formerly Teel Field). Other retired Quincy Public Schools staff will be recognized, including Paul Bregoli, Eileen Feeny, and Mary Pratt.

American Education Week will be recognized at the December 7 School Committee Meeting, which will begin at 6:00 pm as students from Kindergarten through Grade 10 will share posters, essays, and video entries around the theme of celebrating public education, a right and a responsibility.

Voter Registration was held at both high schools the week of October 25, over 60 students registered, thanks to City Clerk Nicole Crispo for organizing the first of this annual event. The Grade 8 Open Houses at Quincy High School and North Quincy High School were held the week of October 24. Each school had around 300 families tour the school and hear about the programs.

Dr. DeCristofaro announced that Sterling Middle School will host a Veterans Day celebration on Thursday, November 10 at 1:00 pm and a Community Health Night on November 16 at 6:00 pm.

Dr. DeCristofaro reflected on the bus accident that took place on Tuesday, October 25, where 32 students and the bus driver were shaken up but not seriously injured. Thanks to Quincy Police and Fire Departments, and Brewster Ambulance for their responsiveness and Bernazzani and Student Support staff for their work in reuniting families and supporting students in their return to school.

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Ms. Isola deferred this agenda item to the December 7 School Committee Meeting.

New Business

Superintendent's Evaluation

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Dr. DeCristofaro shared a draft of his goals for the 2016-2017 for School Committee to review. These will be voted on at the December 7 School Committee meeting.

New Business

Superintendent's Goals for 2016-2017

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Mrs. Mahoney arrived at 6:50 pm.

Ms. Roy, Mrs. Perkins, and Mr. Marani presented the Curriculum and Assessment Team Initiatives Update. Beginning with Rapid Reset, Mrs. Perkins reviewed that following the interventions of last winter and spring, Snug Harbor achieved Level 2 status, increasing the school percentile and the median school-wide Student Growth Percentile for ELA and Mathematics. Sterling Middle School raised Mathematics scores above targets across all grades, for all students, and for all subgroups, along with establishing the first middle school Integrated Learning Team model. Sterling also developed a new block schedule designed to increase time on learning for Grades 6-8 for this school year. Bernazzani surpassed their High Needs target and increased school-wide percentile and percentage of proficient and advanced. In Grade 3, no students scored in the Warning category. Increases in student growth percentile were also seen for ELA and Mathematics. All three schools will continue the Reset Renewal as an initiative for this school year.

New Business

2016-2017 Curriculum & Assessment Team Initiatives Update

Ms. Roy introduced Ms. Elise Higgins-Steele in a spotlight on teacher leadership. Ms. Higgins-Steele presented the Girls Rising program, using Skype in the classroom, breaking down barriers and educating students about access to health

care and education. One of the topics within the classroom was equality in education, and led the students to see education as an active experience. Multidisciplinary approach, art, writing, reading, speaking are all part of the unit.

Ms. Isola said that the impact of this documentary is profound, can see the effect and enthusiasm of Ms. Higgins-Steele and students. So important to look outside our own community and glad that we are taking the opportunity to empower girls everywhere.

Mrs. Lebo said that building citizens is very important work of schools, reflective of the best of Quincy Public Schools teachers. Glad to hear that with all the curriculum and testing-focused initiatives

Mrs. Mahoney thanked the students and Ms. Higgins-Steele and the opportunity the unit provides for both boys and girls to learn about each other. Was happy to see the use of technology to communicate with students and adults all over the world. It empowers us to see that we have much to learn about the world beyond our city, state, and country.

Mrs. Hubley encourages everyone to see the documentary, great opportunity for parents and students to see together. Ms. Higgins-Steele said that school provides validation of your existence, you are acknowledged on a daily basis.

Mr. Bregoli said that education is often carried through mothers as the center of the family, would love to see this initiative expanded city-wide to all middle schools.

Dr. DeCristofaro said Ms. Higgins-Steele takes pride in her work, and presents innovation, creative thinking, and making a tremendous difference. Dr. DeCristofaro noted that the new Sterling Middle School will have project-based learning spaces to complement this type of explorations.

Mrs. Perkins presented on the Collaborative Connections initiative which is focused on improving student achievement in targeted areas (academic, social-emotional, parent engagement, building capacity and leadership of teachers). For this year, Beechwood Knoll, Clifford Marshall, Lincoln Hancock, and Broad Meadows are launching this initiative to build consensus and investment in making decisions on areas of target, site-based ongoing Professional Development that are identified through the collaboration process, and increased opportunity for parent engagement in different ways, giving parents the tools to assist their children. At the elementary level, Kindergarten through Grade 2 teachers typically meet in grade-level teams, with upper elementary meeting vertically by curriculum area. Mini-ILTs provide check-ins for students at risk so that interventions can be instituted quickly. For Broad Meadows, a new diagnostic assessment is being used and family engagement activities include Spaghetti Supper, some academic workshops at parent teacher conferences.

Mrs. Perkins presented on the Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten Report Card initiatives, which will be published through Aspen in December. Teacher training for Gradebook posting will be held on November 22.

Ms. Roy shared an update on the planning for MCAS 2.0 implementation, a collaboration of the Superintendent's Leadership, Curriculum & Assessment, Principal, and Technology & Training teams. Significant changes are expected, especially for Grades 4 and 8 taking computer-based assessment. Blueprint and sample items will be available in January. Quincy Public Schools is creating site-based teams, along the lines of the elementary report card and DDM teams. In terms of instructional content, teachers have been working on preparing students with practice on the types of assessment items they will likely see. In addition, the CAMT has surveyed elementary and middle school teachers on needs for student support for digital literacy and professional development. Keyboarding instruction is underway at many elementary schools, usually under the direction of the library support staff. Another concern was practice for using online tools, such as highlighting, dragging and dropping, scrolling, and accessing calculators, video, audio. A big concept for emphasis is that some of the items will allow multiple responses and developing the ability to generate a written response (short or long).

Snug Harbor Assistant Principal and Extended Day Coordinator Michael Marani thanked Dr. DeCristofaro and Mrs. Perkins for the support for the Reset initiative. Mr. Marani presented Fall Scene highlights of the programs ending in early December. Each elementary and middle school offer options for academic and enrichment, theater arts, athletics, chess. Robotics is strong, 100 middle school students. Community service through peer leaders and student councils, Interact club at the high school level. District-wide programs include the John & Abigail Adams Orchestra and strings lessons. Thousands of student are involved at a given time of the year, and this programming has a real impact on the students and families.

In February, Winter School will offer SAT Prep and Credit Recovery. In March, STEM Academy will be held on Saturdays for Grades 2-5, focusing on CAD design using TinkerCAD, online program for design and build. The Extended Day Team meets throughout the year, elementary and middle school assistant principals and teachers share ideas and best practices, valuable input. Mr. Marani thanked School Committee for their continued support of the Extended Education programs.

Mr. Bregoli thanked the presenters for the informative presentation, testament to all of the components that go on every day.

Ms. Isola made a motion to move MCAS 2.0 to the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee, seconded by Mrs. Hubley. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business

MCAS 2.0 to Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

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Mr. Bregoli made a motion to move the North Quincy High School Mascot to the Policy Subcommittee, seconded by Mrs. Mahoney. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business

NQHS Mascot to Policy Subcommittee

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Mrs. Hubley made a motion to move the Snug Harbor traffic issue to Facilities & Security Subcommittee, seconded by Mr. DeAmicis. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business

Snug Harbor Traffic to Facilities & Security Subcommittee

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Mrs. Hubley requested to add the Repair/Replacement of Water Bubblers to Facilities, looking for an update on the timeline.

Agenda Item Request

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Mrs. Lebo made a motion to accept the donation of computers from Bluefin Robotics, valued at \$12,000.00. Mr. DeAmicis seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business

Gift: Computers from Bluefin Robotics

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Ms. Isola made a motion to approve the April 17-21, 2017 Out of the Country travel of North Quincy High School to Montreal and Quebec City, Canada. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business

Out of the Country Travel

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Ms. Isola made a motion to approve the December 1-4, 2016 Out of State travel of Quincy High School to Yale Model Congress, New Haven, Connecticut. 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 April 7-11, 2017 Out of State travel of North Quincy High School AFJROTC to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The motion was seconded by Ms. Isola and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business

Out of State Travel (Overnight)

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Mr. DeAmicis made a motion to approve the June 7-9, 2017 Out of State travel of Central Middle School to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. 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 June 8-9, 2017 Out of State travel of Atlantic Middle School to New York City, New York. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAmicis and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
Out of State Travel (Overnight)

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Upcoming meetings were announced: School Committee 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: Teaching & Learning will hear Elementary School SIPs on November 15, 2016 and November 16, 2016. Budget & Finance Subcommittee will meet on November 14, 2016 at 5:00 pm, followed by the Facilities & Security Subcommittee at 5:15 pm, and the Policy Subcommittee at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Isola saw Lincoln Hancock Grade 3 students on the news today with a visiting meteorologist.

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Mr. Bregoli noted that all Subcommittee meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the Quincy Public Schools website www.quincypublicschools.com.

Reports of Subcommittees

Ms. Isola reported on the October 24, 2016 and November 2, 2016 Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meetings, noting that all Program and School Improvement Plans are posted on the Quincy Public Schools website. At these two meetings, School Improvement Plans for North Quincy High School, Quincy High School, Atlantic Middle School, Broad Meadows Middle School, Central Middle School, Point Webster Middle School, Sterling Middle School and Program Improvement Plans for Career & Technical Education and English Language Education were presented.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Ms. Isola made a motion to approve these Program and School Improvement Plans. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

As there were no corrections, the minutes of the October 24, 2016 and November 2, 2016 Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meetings, the minutes were approved as presented.

Mr. Bregoli reviewed the October 24, 2016 Policy Subcommittee meeting; proposed revisions for Sections 1 and 2 changes were shared for School Committee review. These sections will be discussed at the November 14, 2016. Mrs. Lebo has a few suggestions for clarification, these will be shared with School Committee prior to the next Subcommittee meeting.

Policy Subcommittee

As there were no corrections, the minutes of the October 24, 2016 Policy Subcommittee meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Mrs. Mahoney reported on the October 26, 2016 Special Education Subcommittee meeting, thanked Special Education Director Erin Perkins for sharing the Special Education Program Improvement Plan. The meeting also included the annual Special Education Rights and Responsibilities presentation and a review of QPAC goals and parent concerns.

Special Education Subcommittee

Mrs. Mahoney made a motion to approve the Special Education Program Improvement Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAmicis and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

As there were no corrections, the minutes of the October 26, 2016 Special Education Subcommittee meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

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Mrs. Hubley made a motion to adjourn for the evening at 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAmicia and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment