

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – February 8, 2017

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 8, 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. 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; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; Citywide Parent Council Co-President Courtney Perdios; and Quincy High School Student Representative Owen Doherty.

Mrs. Lebo was absent.

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There was a moment of silence for Bob McGillicuddy, Grade 7 Science Teacher at Sterling for 23 years, also High School Swimming & Diving Coach; retired Director of the Center for Technical Education Joe Mazzarella, and retired Custodian Arthur Rizzi. 51 years at Sterling Middle School.

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Mr. DeAmicis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for January 25, 2017. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting
Minutes Approved
1.25.2017

Mr. DeAmicis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, to approve the Executive Session minutes for January 25, 2017. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Executive Session
Minutes Approved
1.25.2017

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As no one was present who wished to speak at Open Forum, School Committee went 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 elementary school food tastings hosted by Food Services Director Sara Dufour and interns from Simmons College. A Matter of Heart CPR awareness and training initiative for Grade 8 students was also highlighted.

The FY2017 Quincy Public Schools Grant Booklet was shared with School Committee.

Dr. DeCristofaro reminded School Committee that Kindergarten Registration will be held on Tuesday, March 7 at all elementary school locations.

Massachusetts School Building Authority Statements of Interests for replacing the Parker Elementary School boiler and the North Quincy High School roof were approved by City Council on Monday, February 6. The Statement of Interest for a new building for Squantum Elementary School will be on the March 20 City Council agenda.

The Student Council Leadership Summit was scheduled for February 9, but will be rescheduled due to the impending snowstorm.

Over 100 students and parents were certified for CPR on Saturday, February 4. Coordinator of Health Services Rita Bailey is planning recertification for Grade 10 students. Thanks to Brewster Ambulance for the week of CPR Awareness classes held at all five middle schools.

Executive Director of Career & Technical Education Keith Segalla announced two competitive grant awards recently received by Quincy Public Schools: Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant, \$75,000 for equipment to support Career & Technical Education programs for Information Technology program at North Quincy High School and the CTE Partnership Implementation Grant, \$75,000 to increase access for underserved students. Thanks to the Mayor's Office for grant writing assistance.

Mr. Segalla also announced to new Quincy School~Community Partners: Gold sponsor Mass Bay Credit Union and Platinum-level sponsor Granite Telecommunications, who has committed to donate \$15,000 per year for 20 years.

Parent Academies: On March 9, 23, and April 7, there will be a three-part event on Learning to Read, focusing on the developmental process of reading, assisting struggling readers, and dyslexia, to be held at Central Middle School.

Director of Academic Programs Beth Hallett announced that two North Quincy High School students received *Boston Globe*/Scholastic Art Awards: Alexander Cox received a Silver Key for Art and Quynh Vu received a Silver Key for Photography and a Gold Key for Art. Ms. Vu's Gold Key work will be exhibited

in a regional showcase at Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts in March. In addition, seven Quincy Public Schools middle school choral students qualified for the MMEA Eastern Junior District Festival to be held on March 3 and 4 at Lincoln Sudbury High School.

The new All-City Chorus program for Grade 5 is underway on early release Tuesday afternoons. 61 students from all eleven elementary schools are rehearsing with teachers Diane Doherty and Ted Evangelista. A concert will be held on May 2. Dr. DeCristofaro has been meeting with the Quincy Choral Boosters board on planning a Choral Camp and their fundraising plans to support the Choral program.

The All-City Band for elementary students continues to grow with over 100 students and a new percussion ensemble. The annual concert will be held in early June.

The Quincy Band Boosters have been incredibly supportive of the Instrumental Music program, funding the purchase of instruments and equipment and procuring substantial grants. This week, Mayor Koch announced that he will provide funding to purchase marching band uniforms for 2017-18 school year.

Dr. DeCristofaro concluded his report by noting that the newsletters for High School Community Service, Food Services, and Squantum Elementary School’s Student Council were shared with the School Committee.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 School Year Calendar. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 6-0. Mrs. Lebo was absent.

Old Business

2017-2018 School Year Calendar (Vote)

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 School Committee Meeting Calendar. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 6-0. Mrs. Lebo was absent.

2017-2018 School Committee Meeting Calendar (Vote)

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Dr. DeCristofaro shared Opportunity & Challenges IV, an overview of enrollment trends at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. With just over 10,000 school age students in Quincy, 90% or slightly more than 9,100 students at Grades K-12 attend Quincy Public Schools. For each elementary, middle, and high school, enrollment by grade was shared, along with overall enrollment trends over the last ten years, since the inception of full-day Kindergarten. In some buildings, Academic Support Programs, such as Literacy, Special Education Resource Rooms, and English Language space needs are competing with increased student populations.

Mayor Koch mentioned the potential of acquiring the property of the former St. Mary's School and the potential for building a new elementary school in West Quincy. Dr. DeCristofaro said several parts of the city would benefit from this. For example, students who now are districted for Montclair and Lincoln Hancock could attend this new school, and potentially allow for a district boundary change for Clifford Marshall to alleviate some of the enrollment pressure there.

Mrs. Mahoney asked if there is an idea of the size of a school that could be built there, does the MSBA have requirements for green space. Mayor Koch said there are preliminary discussions underway and once the parcel is defined by the property owner, preliminary analysis of building size and green space requirements would be completed. Financing would be approved by the City Council and any MSBA project by both the School Committee and City Council. Mayor Koch said that a new school would open up the discussion of district boundaries throughout the City. Plans to keep all informed on the process and move one step at a time.

With the School Committee goals of class size in mind, current enrollment was shared, with favorable class sizes at the elementary level with average being 19 students at Grades 1-4 and 20 students at Kindergarten and Grade 5. In Grades 6-8, 94% of students are in classes of 24 or fewer. At the high school level, 84% of students are in classes of 25 or fewer students.

In summary, Dr. DeCristofaro said that next month's Kindergarten registration is the key to moving forward. Schools that space concerns are already apparent may need to look at alternatives.

Mrs. Mahoney asked about Kindergarten enrollment and how soon do we have an indicator about whether there will be higher enrollment at a particular school. Dr. DeCristofaro said that by late May. Mrs. Mahoney said that other school systems begin enrollment in January and this may be helpful in predicting class size in the future. Mrs. Mahoney asked about the Kindergarten classes at Beechwood Knoll, the need for construction seemed to come up very close to school. Dr. DeCristofaro said that predictive modeling has been difficult because of the variables of being an urban district. Dr. DeCristofaro said he is open to exploring other ways of predicting enrollment.

Mrs. Mahoney said some enrollments were higher in previous years. Also asked to see Lincoln Hancock broken out for K-4 vs. K-5 enrollments. (Grade 5 moved to Sterling in 2009-10 school year.) Mrs. Mahoney concerned about feasibility of the West Quincy property, would this potentially allow for Grade 5 to be moved back to the elementary school level? Decisions need to be made to serve the whole school system.

Ms. Isola made a motion to approve the Overnight Travel of Sterling Middle School Grade 7 to Camp Wing, Duxbury, Massachusetts May 22-24, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business

Overnight Travel
(In-State)

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the Overnight Travel of QHS/NQHS HYPER Robotics to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts on March 8-11, 2017. The motion was seconded by Ms. Isola and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the Out of State Travel of QHS/NQHS HYPER Robotics to FRC District Robotics Competition in Smithfield, Rhode Island March 24-26, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business

Out of State Travel
(Overnight)

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the Out of State Travel of QHS/NQHS HYPER Robotics to the University of New Hampshire in Durham, New Hampshire April 5-8, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the Out of State Travel of Sterling Middle School Grade 6 to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, New Hampshire on June 14, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAmicis and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business

Out of State Travel
(One Day)

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Dr. DeCristofaro asked for School Committee’s indulgence in bringing an item before them under Additional Business. In light of Mr. Bob McGillicuddy’s sudden illness and death in late January, a tribute to is planned for February 16, 2017 to recognize his dedication to the middle and high school swimming & diving programs. Dr. DeCristofaro proposed naming the timing board at the pool in the Djerf Community Center at the Lincoln Hancock Community School after Mr. McGillicuddy.

Additional Business

Mayor Koch made a motion to name the Djerf Community Center Pool’s timing board for Mr. Robert McGillicuddy. On the motion, Mayor Koch noted that this is a fitting memorial to Mr. McGillicuddy for all the time he spent at the pool and what he gave to the students of Quincy Public Schools. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAmicis. On a roll call vote, the ayes have it 6-0. Mrs. Lebo was absent.

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Upcoming meetings were announced: School Committee on March 1 and 15, 2017 at the Coddington Building at 6:30 pm. Communications

Upcoming Subcommittee meetings were announced: Teaching & Learning will meet on March 6, 2017 at 5:00 pm. Special Education will meet on March 22, 2017 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. Reports of Subcommittees

Ms. Isola reported on the January 30, 2017 Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Hallett presented an update on Dual Enrollment for high school students, Ms. Roy and Mr. Smith presented on Advanced Pathways for Science, and Ms. Roy updated the Subcommittee on preparations for MCAS 2.0. Teaching & Learning

As there were no corrections, the minutes for the January 30, 2017 Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Mr. Bregoli reported on the February 6, 2017 Policy Subcommittee meeting. Revisions to sections 2.4.5 and 2.4.11 of the Policy Book as they referred to Open Forum were discussed with no motion to move forward to School Committee. This item will remain in Policy Subcommittee. Policy

As there were no corrections, the minutes for the February 6, 2017 Policy Subcommittee meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Mrs. Hubley reported on the February 6, 2017 Facilities & Security Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Draicchio updated on traffic and parking signage installation, the Snug Harbor traffic issue, and safety concerns about the new hotel on the site of the former Presidents City Inn. Facilities & Security

As there were no corrections, the minutes for the February 6, 2017 Facilities & Security Subcommittee meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Mr. DeAmicis reported on the February 6, 2017 Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee Meeting. Ms. Dufour presented a Food Services program update, Ms. Owens and Mrs. Manning reviewed the Farm to School grant activities to date, and Mrs. Papile introduced the Calm Classroom program. Health, Transportation, & Safety

As there were no corrections, the minutes for the February 6, 2017 Health, Transportation and Safety Subcommittee meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Mrs. Hubley removed Presidents City Inn and Snug Harbor traffic issues from Facilities & Security Subcommittee.

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Mayor Koch made a motion for School Committee to go to Executive Session for the purpose of Contract Negotiations at 8:10 pm. Mr. DeAmicis seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 6-0. Mrs. Lebo was absent.

Executive Session
Contract Negotiations

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 8:20 pm.

Mayor Koch made a motion of accept the contract between the Quincy School Bus Drivers Association and the Quincy School Committee. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 6-0. Mrs. Lebo was not present.

Mayor Koch made a motion of accept the contract between the Quincy School Bus Attendants Association and the Quincy School Committee. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 6-0. Mrs. Lebo was not present.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to adjourn for the evening at 8:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment