

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – May 17, 2017

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at the Central Middle School at 6:30 p.m. The Superintendent called the roll and present were School Committee Chairman 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. Mollie Good, Ms. Beth Hallett, Mr. James Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Mrs. Maura Papile, Ms. Cara Pekarcik, Mrs. Erin Perkins, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mr. Robert Shaw, Mr. Lawrence Taglieri; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; Citywide Parents Council Co-Presidents Scott Alessandro and Courtney Perdios; and Quincy Parent Advisory Council to Special Education Board Members Debby Nabstedt and Cassandra Beck.

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There was a moment of silence in memory of Ms. Lottie Mahoney, Teacher at Great Hill, Snug Harbor, and Atherton Hough Elementary School for 40 years and Mr. Joseph Ryan, Math Teacher at Central Junior High School for many years.

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Mrs. Hubley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Isola to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for May 3, 2017. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting Minutes Approved 5.3.2017

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Mr. Scott Alessandro thanked Principals Nicholas Ahearn, Maureen MacNeil, Lawrence Taglieri and Senior Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile for the presentation on Transitions at the most recent Citywide Parent Council Meeting. Mr. Alessandro then spoke about four areas to consider for additional budget support: Middle School Library Media (additional positions to ensure full coverage for all grades at all schools), Technical support (to address the growing use of technology in classrooms and for assessment), Elementary Library Support (refocus on technology), and Dual Enrollment (QPS support for tuition/fees to increase the number of student opportunities).

Open Forum

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Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report by recognizing Ms. Cara Pekarcik, recently named as the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year for 2018. Mayor Koch said that Ms. Pekarcik represents all the best of Quincy Public Schools, and has brought well-deserved recognition to North Quincy High School and the whole city.

Superintendent's
Report

National Honor Society Advisors Mollie Good (Quincy High School) and Cara Pekarcik (North Quincy High School) then introduced the graduating Senior members of the National Honor Society. The following students were recognized:

Yusra Ahmed, Kayla Ahrens, Noor Al-Saad, Yaseen Alkhafaji, Emily Barker, Lucia Buzzell, Bailee Carey, Jessica Chen, Gary Chi, Joanne Chung, Sammy Cordahi, Alexander Cox, Brianne Dane, Abdelrahman Elhashash, Isabelle Flaherty, Anthony Fong, Emma Fuchs, Maeve Herson, Amy Huang, Alexander Huynh, Emilia Kapcia, Maysoon Khan, Jason Kung, Man Ching Lam, Tien Lam, Jessie Lei, Emily Li, Daniel Liang, Alex Liu, Zhi Yang Luo, Judy Luu, Vanessa Ly, Owen Lynch, Alexandra MacPherson, Colin Maloney, Harold Marcheski, Michelle Mark, Shauna McColgan, Brigham McKee, Tianettie McKeen, Theresa McMillen, Alicia Murphy, Amanda Ngo, Minhthu Nguyen, Tara Nguyen, James O'Leary, Imane Oubtrou, Danielle Parry, Linda Phung, Margaret Powers, Joelle Robinson, Liam Rogers, Jacqueline Ryan, Ethan Sit, Paolo Soares, Michael Soohoo, Shaheen Soto, Stephanie Stalder, Alissa Tam, Quan Thi, Yvonne To, Kristen Tran, Thomas Tran, Vincent Tran, Nhi Truong, Wilson Wong, Yashi Xu, Andy Zhen, Mona Zheng, Joey Zhuo, Wendy Zhou, Rachel Zisk

Dr. DeCristofaro praised the students for their accomplishments, their parents for all the support, and their teachers and principals for nurturing their talents. Mrs. Mahoney, Mr. DeAmicis, and Mr. Bregoli also thanked the students and told them of our pride and hopes for their future.

After a brief recess, Superintendent DeCristofaro resumed his Report. At last night's Quincy Retired Teachers Association Scholarship Ceremony, over \$75,000 was awarded to 37 graduating Seniors. Yesterday was the final Mentor Team meeting of the year, over 60 professional staff mentors and proteges under the leadership of Principal James Hennessy and Senior Curriculum Director Madeline Roy. Thanks also to NAGE for their annual donation of \$10,000 to support the Mentor program.

For MSBA Projects, Dr. DeCristofaro and members of the Sterling Middle School project team met with Sterling staff on May 9, answered questions about summer construction and changes for Fall 2017 when construction will be underway. Accelerated Repair Program projects are scheduled to start on June 27 at Beechwood Knoll (windows, doors, roof, boiler room). Representatives from the Public Buildings Department presented at the Beechwood Knoll PTO meeting last night. Additional classroom space will be created within the Sawyer Center to address projected enrollment at Beechwood Knoll over the summer.

Upcoming Quincy School~Community Partnership Events include the Elementary & Middle School Robotics Challenge at Quincy High School on May 20; the Community Service Learning Celebration on May 31; the Student Athlete Summit on June 2 at the Tirrell Room; and the Quincy Public Schools Staff Retirement Lunch on June 8, sponsored by Quincy Education Association. The Spring edition of the Partnership Newsletter was shared with School Committee

Upcoming Quincy Public Schools events include a presentation on Effective Strategies for Students with Anxiety by Jessica Minihan on May 22; the Welcome to Kindergarten Parent Academy on May 23 at Central Middle School; the Middle School Chorus Festival at Central Middle School on May 25; and the Health & Wellness Symposium for Principals, Assistant Principals, Health Educators & Interventionists, Food Services, Physical Education on June 7. Monclair Elementary School PTO is hosting the annual May Festival on Saturday, May 20 and Bernazzani Elementary School PTO is hosting a Spring Fair on Saturday, June 3.

The Quincy Public Schools Summer Scene Brochure was shared with School Committee; it is posted online on www.quincypublicschools.com and was sent out to families via email.

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There was no Old Business on the agenda.

Old Business

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Superintendent DeCristofaro and Director of Business James Mullaney presented the FY2018 Quincy Public Schools budget, reviewing the positions and additional funding added over the last four years: 18 new professional positions have been added, Middle School Technical Education and Library have been reinstated; class sizes have remained favorable; Special Education, English Learner Education, Literacy, Student Support, and Health Services have all seen growth. From the city's Capital Improvement Plan, Quincy Public Schools has seen significant investments with \$850,000 in Technology and \$500,000 for Transportation; QPS will also benefit from city upgrades for fiber optics and telephone systems still to come.

New Business

FY2018 Quincy Public Schools Budget

The Mayor's FY2018 appropriation of \$105,875,951 is a 2.91% increase over previous year's budget. Circuit Breaker funding is expected to grow by \$400,000. This level-services budget allows Quincy Public Schools to meet all contractual obligations for the 2017-2018 school year, including percentage raises and step and level increases. \$1,233,962 is available to address class size, academic programs, academic support, non-academic support, academic expenses, and non-academic expenses.

For Academic Classroom Teachers, the proposal is to add 2 classroom teachers for class size (Grade 4 at Lincoln Hancock and Clifford Marshall). At the same time, retirements and leaves of absence will remove 4 positions (1 elementary, 2 middle school, 1 high school). A 0.5 position increase will ensure Tech Engineering for all middle school students in Grades 6-8 and Grade 5 at Point Webster and Sterling.

For Academic Program Teachers, the proposal is to add 2.0 ELL teachers (Beechwood Knoll and Quincy High School) and 2.0 Middle School Library/Media specialist to complete restoration of program, each middle school will have full library support. In addition, a 0.3 position for General Music will assist with additional elementary class sections. A 1.0 position will be added for Special Education at Quincy High School, and through re-allocation of staff, a new Pre-Kindergarten CARES class at Della Chiesa ECC will be established.

For Academic Support, the proposal is to add to one nurse to assist with caseload at Clifford Marshall, Lincoln Hancock, and Parker. For ELL, an additional ELL aide and increased funding for translators are also proposed. No changes to Non-Academic Support are proposed beyond Contractual Obligations. For the Subsidized Services accounts, no changes are recommended to the fees for Transportation, Building Rentals, or Athletics. For Food Services, the recommendation is to raise lunch prices to \$2.50 for elementary school, \$2.75 for middle school, and \$3.00 for high school.

For Academic Expenses, Special Education tuitions are expected to rise by \$1,000,000, which will be partly offset by an anticipated increase of \$400,000 in Circuit Breaker funding. Also proposed is an increase of Assessment funding of \$35,000. Software line would increase by \$130,000 for Baseline Edge, Aspen, and Instant Alert.

For Non-Academic Expenses, decreases in electricity, fuel, telephone, gasoline, postage will offset increases for Special Education transportation and student furniture.

Mrs. Mahoney asked whether the decrease in the electricity budget line item is conservative. Mr. Mullaney agreed, saying that this is early days on the solar panels being operational. Mrs. Mahoney asked to see a reconciliation of what has not been restored from the budget cuts of 10 years ago.

Mrs. Lebo said that she is thrilled to see the increased positions for Middle School Library Media and Tech Engineering, full services for all students. If there is additional savings to be allocated, Mrs. Lebo would like to see \$30,000 spent on extending the MAP Assessments to all middle school grades.

Mrs. Lebo made a motion to increase lunch costs as recommended and Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0.

As there was no further discussion needed on the FY2018 Budget, Mrs. Lebo made a motion to move the FY2018 Quincy Public Schools Budget forward to the Public Hearing on May 31. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Director of Special Education Erin Perkins presented on the collaboration between Quincy Public Schools and the Landmark School. The collaboration began in 2011-2012 school year, with the Landmark Writing Workshop for all Elementary and Middle School Special Education teachers. In the 2012-2013 school year, Landmark presented a Study Skills/Executive Functioning Workshop for Middle and High School Special Education Teachers. In the 2013-2014 school year, the Landmark Writing Workshop was attended by all Literacy Specialists, EL Teachers, and Elementary Special Education Teachers. For the 2014-2015 school year, the collaboration grew to include working with Landmark Consultant Caitlin Parker. Over the last three years, Ms. Parker has worked with the Elementary and Middle School Language Development Teachers and middle school site-based teams to support Executive Functioning.

New Business
Partnering with
the Landmark School

Landmark Writing, although developed for students with language-based disabilities, has been successfully used in English Learner classrooms as well. Landmark Writing uses explicit instruction to introduce new concepts, uses sentence hierarchy, integrates picture support, vocabulary building, and encourages theme development.

Senior Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile presented on the collaboration with Landmark about executive functioning, the cognitive management system of the brain. In the middle school grades, support for students in managing the tasks of daily life is crucial. Support for executive functioning is built around self-awareness building, managing focus, materials, and time. The middle school Health Educators are also working with students on coping with anxiety, self-assessment, and supporting parents and teachers in establishing learning and home environments. Teachers and parents can create expectations and routines, learn about consistent follow-through on consequences in a consistent way, rewarding positive results, acknowledging challenges, and giving constructive feedback and praise.

Working with middle school Guidance Counselors, a Parent Academy will be planned next fall on how to assist and support students in creating a growth mindset. Senior Curriculum Director Madeline Roy said that this is part of the Grades K-8 District Professional Development plan. All the work to create solid curriculum is for naught if students are disorganized and not prepared to learn. Next steps are for middle school teams to design an implementation plan for next year, continuing our partnership with Landmark through Professional Development, Site Visits, and Coaching. Spring 2018 check-ins are planned.

Mr. Bregoli thanked the presenters. Mrs. Lebo said she is thrilled to see this collaboration, both for the writing and the executive functioning.

Mr. Bregoli asked about students currently attending Landmark. 10 students attend this program. Mr. Bregoli asked if ultimately the goal would be for teachers to be able to meet the needs of the students in QPS. Mrs. Perkins said that is always the first goal, but students sometimes need the extra support of this type of outside placement.

Mrs. Mahoney thanked Mrs. Perkins, this presentation shows the progress of this collaboration over time. There will always be students in need of the special offerings at these outside placement, but seeing that our teachers are expanding their tools to meet the needs of these students as much as possible. We are stressing our students through the amount of assessment they face, glad we are addressing this and supporting students.

Dr. DeCristofaro said this type of Professional Development that goes across many roles in the school system is important in addressing our student needs.

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Mr. DeAmicis made a motion to approve the Out of State Travel (One Day) of Atherton Hough Elementary School Grade 5 to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, New Hampshire on June 14, 2017. 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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Mr. Bregoli asked for School Committee’s indulgence to consider an additional Out of State Travel request as an item under Additional Business.

Additional Business

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the Out of State Travel (One Day) of Wollaston Elementary School Grade 5 to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, New Hampshire on June 19, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAmicis and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Upcoming meetings were announced: School Committee on June 14, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Coddington Building. The FY2018 Quincy Public Schools Budget Public Hearing is May 31, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Communications

Upcoming Subcommittee meetings were announced: Special Education will meet on May 24, 2017 at 6:00 pm., and the Athletics Subcommittee will meet on June 5, 2017 at 5:00 pm.

Mrs. Lebo requested that the Resource Fair be added to the Special Education Subcommittee meeting for discussion.

Ms. Isola left the meeting at 8:00 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

Mrs. Hubley reported on the May 8, 2017 Facilities & Security Subcommittee which featured a presentation on the Massachusetts School Building Authority Accelerated Repair Program Boiler replacement projects planned for Atherton Hough, Beechwood Knoll, Merrymount, and Wollaston Elementary Schools.

Facilities & Security

As there were no corrections, the minutes for the May 8, 2017 Facilities & Security Subcommittee meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

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Mayor Koch reported on the May 8, 2017 Athletics Subcommittee. This inaugural meeting focused on Athletics as it relates to Budget and participation and a list of topics for further discussion was generated.

Athletics

As there were no corrections, the minutes for the May 8, 2017 Athletics Subcommittee meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

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Mrs. Lebo reported on the May 10, 2017 and May 16, 2017 Budget & Finance, noting these meetings were covered in the presentation earlier in this meeting.

As there were no corrections, the minutes for the May 10, 2017 and May 16, 2017 Budget & Finance Subcommittee meetings were approved as presented.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to go to Executive Session for the purpose of Contract Negotiations at 8:15 p.m, noting that School Committee will return to Regular Session. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 6-0. Ms. Isola was absent.

Executive Session

Agreement with the
QPS Security Force
Association

School Committee returned to Regular Session at 8:25 p.m.

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the agreement between the Quincy School Committee and the Quincy Public Schools Security Force Association. Mr. DeAmicis seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 6-0. Ms. Isola was absent.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to adjourn for the evening at 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment