

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – September 21, 2016

- - -

Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 21, 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; 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; and Citywide Parents Council Co-President Scott Alessandro.

§

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

§

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

Regular Meeting
Minutes Approved
9.7.16

Ms. Isola made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, to approve the Executive Session minutes for September 7, 2016. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Executive Session
Minutes Approved
9.7.16

Ms. Isola made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Lebo, to approve the Special Meeting minutes for September 14, 2016. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Executive Session
Minutes Approved
9.14.16

§

Ms. Stacy Barker, President of the Quincy Choral Boosters, spoke in favor of supporting Choral Arts Education in the Quincy Public Schools. She announced that the Boosters were hosting a car wash on Saturday, September 24 from 9:00 am to noon in the Quincy High School parking lot.

Open Forum

Mr. Daniel Molloy, Vice-President of the Quincy Choral Boosters, highlighted the importance of choral arts in the schools, a significant part of academic success, building confidence and communications skills.

§

Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report with Inspire Quincy, featuring highlights of the Quincy Public Schools including the School~Community Partnership Backpacks Initiative (thanks to donations from Harvard Pilgrim, Cradles to Crayons, Quincy Credit Union, National Association of Government Employees, W.B. Mason); PBIS at Squantum; the Atlantic Literary Magazine; Band Instrument demonstration at elementary schools; Dr. Mykee Fowlin's presentation for Grades 10 and 11 at both high schools, funded by Peter Thompson to support the Student Support Services Diversity & Respect Initiative.

Superintendent's
Report

Upcoming Quincy Public Schools events include the Quincy School~Community Partnership Welcome Back Reception on September 29 at 5:00 pm at the Common Market; Professional Educator Status Reception on October 13 at Quincy High School; and the Educator Mini-Grants Awards on November 3 at the Quincy Neighborhood Club.

At the September 12, 2016 City Council meeting, the additional appropriation for Full-Day Kindergarten paraprofessionals was approved. The Sterling Middle School Project Scope & Funding Agreement was referred to the next Finance Committee meeting, which will be held on September 29 at 6:30 at Sterling Middle School. Thanks to the City Council for their continued support of Quincy Public Schools.

Site Assessment Days begin next Tuesday, September 27 at the elementary and middle schools. Using MCAS data as a starting point, school staffs will begin to develop goals and action steps for 2016-2017. Subsequent Assessment days throughout the school year will evaluate progress towards these goals. These Assessment Days provide leadership development opportunities for staff members working collaboratively in grade level and curriculum vertical teams.

Water Sampling began this week and will be ongoing through October at all twenty Quincy Public Schools buildings.

Dr. DeCristofaro reminded School Committee that the Sterling Middle School Family 5K Road Race will be held Saturday, September 24 at 9:00 am and the third annual City of Presidents 5K Run/Walk will be held on Sunday, September 25 at 10:00 am at Adams Field to benefit the Quincy Public Schools Health & Wellness programs. This year's event is in memory of Central Middle School teacher Emily Zarnoch. The Beechwood Knoll Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 1 from 11:00 am to 4:00 p.m.

Dr. DeCristofaro concluded the Superintendent’s Report by noting that October 1 enrollment and class size data will be shared at the October 5 School Committee meeting.

§

Dr. DeCristofaro reviewed the connections of the Quincy School Committee to the District Improvement Plan. Mr. Bregoli reviewed the detail of the discussion about Subcommittee goals and items in Subcommittee, noting that meeting minutes are available online on the School Committee page of the Quincy Public Schools website: www.quincypublicschools.com.

New Business
Review of the Special School Committee Meeting on September 14

§

Senior Director of Curriculum Madeline Roy presented an overview of the new Massachusetts DESE Science, Technology, and Engineering Standards along with Ms. Michelle Cunniff, Grade 8 Science Teacher at Central and Ms. Taylor Dennehy, Grade 5 Science Focus Teacher at Montclair.

New Business
New Science, Technology & Engineering Standards

The 2016 Pre-K through Grade 12 Science, Technology, and Engineering standards maintain much of the content of the earlier Massachusetts Science Frameworks, but reflect changes in the field over the past 15 years. There are additional inquiry and design skills that students need to successfully engage in this discipline. The new standards focus on conceptual understanding and application of concepts; integrate disciplinary core ideas and practices from Pre-Kindergarten through 12; and the application of science in engineering contexts. There are now specific standards for each grade level from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8.

The Massachusetts STE standards are an adaptation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), integrated with Massachusetts’s strong standards in place since 1996. Three primary concepts are Practices (describe behaviors that scientists engage in as they investigate and build models and theories about the natural world and the practices that engineers use as they design and build models and systems); Core Ideas (focusing K-12 science curriculum on the most important aspects of science – physical, life, earth and space, and engineering and technology); and Crosscutting (concepts have application across all domains of science; as such they are ways of linking the different domains of science).

The transition to the new STE standards began in 2009 at the state and national level. After drafting of the Massachusetts STE standards and the public comment and revision period, the Massachusetts Board of Education adopted the STE Frameworks in January 2016. In the Quincy Public Schools, the process began during the 2014-2015 school year with the Elementary Report Card team which aligned to the new STE standards. The middle school Science team created a

transition plan and in the summer of 2015, Grades 5 and 6 staff began a mapping and alignment process to roll out a partial implementation. This alignment continued in Summer 2016 with the collaboration on unit development and Advanced Science coursework. Full implementation will be in this 2016-2017 school year.

For all Quincy Public Schools students, the goal of STE education is to develop scientifically and technologically literate citizens who can solve complex, multidisciplinary problems and apply analytical reasoning and innovative thinking to real-world applications needed for civic participation, college preparation, and career readiness. Students experience and navigate the world as an integrated whole. Language, literacy, mathematics, science, technology, and engineering are seamlessly interwoven in our everyday lives.

Ms. Roy reviewed the Advanced Science Pathway team, a collaboration of middle and high school teachers and administrators to create a pathway for achievement, encouraging independent learning and stimulate natural curiosity in science. Ultimately, the effect will be for more Grade 9 students to be ready for Advanced and Honors Biology, for Grade 11 & 12 students to have opportunities with STE electives and/or AP courses, and creation of Grades 6 and 7 pacing guides with differentiation.

Ms. Cunniff spoke of the Boston University GLACIER program, which partners graduate students with middle school science teachers to enhance science curriculum and provide expertise in the classroom. 2016-2017 is the last year of the current grant, but Boston University writing a grant to continue funding and discussions are underway with Boston Scientific to become involved.

Mr. Bregoli thanked the presenters and asked about the Interactive Science Notebooks, Ms. Cunniff explained that it is a daily Science Journal. Ms. Roy said this is a cumulative tool, the goal is for students to have three years of information to refer to when preparing for the Grade 8 STE MCAS. Mr. Bregoli asked about how students will be recommended for Advanced Science. Ms. Cunniff said the teachers will recommend students who are interested and talented in Science, and also look at Grade 5 and 8 MCAS, term, and full year grades.

Ms. Isola said this is very exciting, how we are acknowledging the different learning styles of students. At a young age, students will learn that it is fine to explore, make a mistake, learn from experiments. Ms. Isola said that having female scientists as role models for our students is wonderful, a tangential benefit of this program. The team clearly had a very thoughtful approach to the changes.

Mrs. Mahoney agreed with Ms. Isola about the importance of having scientists in the classrooms. Mrs. Mahoney asked about communication to the parents about the new standards and the importance of the Science Journal. Ms. Cunniff said the schools are encouraging students to keep their journals securely at school. Mrs.

Ms. Cunniff said that materials are posted on Aspen for parent reference. For the interdisciplinary connections, this year has been amazed by the art generated during science inquiry. Mrs. Mahoney asked if students will bring their journals to high school; Ms. Cunniff said this is something they are discussing with the high school department chairs.

Mrs. Lebo thanked Ms. Roy for her leadership and the informative presentation.

§

Ms. Roy then introduced an overview of the planned Parent Academy events for 2016-2017. Senior Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile reviewed the first event, a collaboration of QPAC, the Special Education Department, and Student Support Services, scheduled for October 6 at Central Middle School. An Evening with Maria Trozzi, discussing stresses of living with students with disabilities, strategies for understanding and coping, and a conceptual model for working with collaborative educators. In Spring 2017, there will be a Healthy Choices Family Night.

New Business

Fall Parent Academies

Director of High School Curriculum and English Language Learners Beth Hallett is planning two events focused on expanding Dual Enrollment for Grades 11-12 at both high schools: NQHS on October 12 and QHS on October 20 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. For English Language Learner families at Della Chiesa and Parker, parenting workshops will be offered in collaboration with Quincy Asian Resources and South Shore Mental Health that focus on understanding the educational system and addressing stressors of living bi-culturally.

Special Education Director Erin Perkins introduced a three-part series on Learning to Read that will be presented in the fall and winter covering topics including the developmental process of Reading; signs of struggling and tips on how to intervene; and dyslexia education. Back by popular demand, Brain Boosters for Breaks will be held for Grades K-2 in March and 3-5 in April, focused on keeping students active and engaged in educational process during time away from school. In late May or early June, a Welcome to Kindergarten Parent Academy will be scheduled.

Ms. Roy said two Parent Academy events for middle school families will be held for Understanding Close Reading Strategies on November 1 and Helping to Organize the Disorganized Student on January 19, 2017.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked the Leadership Team members for planning these events and extending our family & community engagement. Principals, assistant principals, department chairs, academic and academic program staff are an integral part of these events.

§

Mayor Koch made a motion to move the Out of State travel of North Quincy High School to the University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire on October 19, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAmicis and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
Out of State
Travel (One Day)

Mayor Koch made a motion to move the Out of State travel of North Quincy High School Soccer to St. Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire on October 16, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

§

Upcoming meetings were announced: School Committee on October 5, 2016; October 19, 2016; and November 9, 2016, all at 6:30 pm at the Coddington Building.

Communications

Upcoming Subcommittee meetings were announced: Policy on September 26, 2016 at 5:00 pm; Teaching & Learning on October 3, 2016; October 24, 2016; November 2, 2016; and November 16, 2016. The meeting originally scheduled for November 14, 2016 has been moved to November 15. The October 12, 2016 Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee will be rescheduled. Budget & Finance Subcommittee will meet on November 14, 2016, along with the Facilities & Security Subcommittee.

Mrs. Lebo asked for an update on the Athletics Subcommittee. Dr. DeCristofaro said there is nothing to report at this time, but will meet with Mayor Koch to determine the membership of the subcommittee.

§

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

Adjournment