

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – September 7, 2016

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 7, 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, 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 Parents Council Co-President Courtney Perdios; Quincy Parent Advisory Council to Special Education Board Debby Nabstedt and Cassandra Beck.

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There was a moment of silence for retired principal and teacher Joseph Long (Point Webster), retired teachers Patricia Smith (Parker and Snug Harbor) and Janice Scheurch (Quincy School).

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Ms. Isola made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for June 15, 2016. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting Minutes Approved 6.15.16

Mrs. Hubley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Isola, to approve the Executive Session minutes for June 15, 2016. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Executive Session Minutes Approved 6.15.16

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Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox, representing the 800 professional educators of the Quincy Public Schools, spoke against Ballot Question 2, which would raise the cap on Commonwealth charter schools, allowing for additional charter schools to be created. Currently, over \$361,000 in state aid is diverted for charter school tuitions for 29 Quincy student residents. Charter schools are not subject to teacher licensing, educator evaluation, and not under the control of local school committees. For neighboring cities and towns, millions of dollars are lost annually to charter school tuitions, which are publicly funded, but privately run. Ms. Cox urged the Quincy School Committee to support the

Open Forum

resolution being presented tonight, in concert with 91 other School Committees across the Commonwealth.

Ms. Lily Huang, a graduate of North Quincy High School and community organizer echoed Ms. Cox’s comments, working with Jobs for Justice and Save Our Public Schools campaign in southeastern Massachusetts. In speaking with the public, many residents view Quincy Public Schools favorably and are not aware of the impact charter school costs to the public school system.

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Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent’s Report with Inspire Quincy, featuring highlights of the Quincy Public Schools summer programs and the New Professional Staff Orientation.

Superintendent's Report

Through the generosity of Quincy School~Community Partnership members, distribution of backpacks and school supplies are scheduled on Thursday, September 8 and Friday, September 9 at Clifford Marshall, Lincoln Hancock, and Snug Harbor. There is a Partnership Back to School event on September 29 at 5:00 pm at the Common Market.

Aspen Publication #20 was shared with the School Committee.

Dr. DeCristofaro noted that over the summer, Quincy Public Schools was notified that Full-Day Quality Kindergarten Grant which funds 14 Kindergarten Paraprofessional positions was not funded, but that increased funds were made available through Chapter 70 funds to the City of Quincy to offset this. Mayor Koch will be requesting the additional appropriation of \$250,000 from City Council to the Quincy Public Schools on Monday, September 12.

BOKS II will be held during the 2016-2017 school year in the fall and winter, funded by a generous donation from the Reebok Corporation in memory of Emily Zarnoch. The 3rd Annual City of Presidents 5K Run/Walk will be held on Sunday, September 25 at 10:00 am and .benefits QPS Health, Wellness, and Substance Abuse Prevention programs

Newsweek magazine recently recognized North Quincy High School as one of the top 500 high schools in the US, with the school coming in at #115.

Dr. DeCristofaro announced that Mayor Koch, in collaboration with Governor Baker and Treasure Goldberg, has secured support for a Water Testing Initiative. Under the supervision of the Department of Environmental Protection and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst Extension School. Samples will be taken from all water sources used for drinking and food preparation and results will be shared when available in the fall.

The Sterling Building Committee met on Tuesday, September 6 and reviewed the work done over the summer. The Massachusetts School Building Authority approved the Project Scope and Budget on July 12. At their Monday, September 12 meeting, City Council will consider the Project Funding Agreement and appropriation of the total project cost. The Design Development phase is completed and pending feedback from the MSBA, the project will move into the Construction document phase.

For the MSBA Accelerated Repair Program project update, Dr. DeCristofaro shared that the Merrymount Elementary School roof is substantially complete; the parapet cap is still to be installed. Boiler projects for Atherton Hough, Beechwood Knoll, Merrymount, and Wollaston are awaiting the OPM assignment from the MSBA; Beechwood roof, windows, and doors will be re-bid out in the fall. The boiler and window/door/roof ARP projects are scheduled for summer of 2017 completion.

At Beechwood Knoll, two larger Kindergarten classrooms have been reconfigured to create three smaller Kindergarten classrooms to accommodate the 70+neighborhood students enrolled for this school year, plus an Academic Program classroom space. Open Enrollment was limited to three siblings of students already enrolled at Beechwood Knoll for Kindergarten. An Open House was held on Tuesday, September 6 for the Kindergarten parents. Many thanks to the Public Buildings staff, the Kindergarten teachers, custodians, and Principal Diane O'Keeffe for their efforts. The October 1 Enrollment presentation will be opportunity to renew discussion about enrollment trends.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Public Buildings, many projects large and small were accomplished over the summer: electrical, plumbing, carpentry, floor sanding and refinishing, painting, and re-grouting the Lincoln Hancock pool.

New Professional Staff Orientation was held on August 31 and September 1, thanks to the Superintendent's Leadership Team who welcomed 45 new Quincy Public Schools staff members. The new staff members learned about a variety of topics, including mentoring, Professional Development, and academic programs. The forty-five teachers represent many fine colleges and universities; many have already earned their Masters of Education.

The School Committee Special Meeting will be Wednesday, September 14 at 5:00 pm at the Coddington Building. All School Committee members will review the goals and items in Subcommittee and schedule upcoming meetings.

Mrs. Mahoney asked that under the Facilities & Security Subcommittee we look at the data and develop a broader picture of upcoming facility needs. Mrs. Lebo asked for a copy the professional staff diversity and female representation reports filed with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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Deputy Superintendent Mulvey introduced that during the recently concluded contract negotiations with the Quincy Education Association, an additional in-building planning day was added for High School staff. Tuesday, January 31, 2017 is the proposed day, which would be an additional early release day for high school students.

Old Business

Revised 2016-2017 School Year Calendar (Vote)

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the Revised 2016-2017 School Year Calendar to add the early release day for high school students on January 31, 2017. Ms. Isola seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

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Mr. Bregoli noted that the Concussion Policy is still in the Policy Subcommittee and that further updates to the Policy will be discussed at the upcoming meeting on September 26.

Concussion Policy Update (in Policy Subcommittee)

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Senior Director of Middle School Curriculum, Programs & Initiatives Madeline Roy presented on the Mathletes and SWELL Academy summer programs. Ms. Roy reviewed that eleven summer programs were run for nine weeks, over 1,000 students served from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12. For the SWELL Academy, facilitators Meg McMillen and Michelle Velez collaborated with 33 Quincy Public Schools teachers who worked with 90 students over five weeks. Funded by the Gateway Cities grant program, social studies and science curriculum related to Quincy’s history and seacoast. Other ELL summer programs include Camp Can-Do at Parker and Clifford Marshall for students entering Grade 1 and at Snug Harbor for students entering Grades 4 and 5.

New Business

Summer Programs Review

For the second year, the Mathletes program was held at Point Webster. Grant funding provided for teachers and a facilitator for this invitation-only program for students entering Grades 7 and 8. Balancing strengthening academic skills and enrichment made for an engaging program. Students were recognized for attendance, performance, and collaboration and were provided with math tools and work to share with their new Math teacher for this school year.

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Senior Director of Middle School Curriculum, Programs & Initiatives Madeline Roy and Executive Director of Information Technology Keith Segalla presented on the Summer Professional Development opportunities available to Quincy Public Schools professional staff members. Grant funding provided support for WIDA, Common Core Math standards, curriculum mapping and unit development for

New Business

Summer Professional Development

ELL, writing, science; close reading strategies with Dr. Nancy Boyles for elementary and middle school staff.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Ms. Roy for her leadership in both the summer programs and professional development.

Mr. Keith Segalla then spoke about the middle school summer STEM collaboration workshop where math, science, and technology engineering teachers worked to develop interdisciplinary units and assessment tools. The QPS Technology Planning & Training team offered several options the last week of August: Google for Educators, Aspen Gradebook, and Teacher pages. 48 staff members participated and thanks to teachers Diana Cavallo and Michael Gendron who conducted these workshops.

Mrs. Lebo asked about the new Science standards; Ms. Roy said upper elementary and middle school teachers have started to transition. During the summer curriculum mapping process, new pacing and alignment guides were developed. The science vertical teams are moving to a unit-based approach, local to global extensions to social studies curriculum, many opportunities for interdisciplinary work. Mrs. Lebo said this is an incredible jump start that this work was done this summer. Ms. Roy said that the standards changes are affecting Grades K-8 and that high school curriculum not affected at this time.

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Mayor Koch presented a resolution against raising the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools:

New Business

Resolution on Charter School Referendum Question (Vote)

*WHEREAS, free public schools are available to all students regardless of income, ability, need, or English language proficiency are foundational to our democracy; and
WHEREAS, all of our students deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child, providing enrichment and addressing social and emotional needs in addition to core academic subjects; and
WHEREAS, local accountability for our public schools is necessary to ensure that schools are responsive to the needs of their communities; and
WHEREAS, Quincy is losing \$361,497 to Commonwealth charter schools and public school districts across the state are losing more than \$400 million this year alone – a loss of funds that is undermining the ability of districts to provide all students with the educational services to which they are entitled; and
WHEREAS, Commonwealth charter schools are often approved over the objections of a majority of community residents and their elected officials and are not accountable to local elected officials once they are approved; and*

*WHEREAS, Commonwealth charter schools often fail to serve the same proportion of special needs students, low-income, and English language learners as the districts from which they receive students; and
 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth charter school system is creating separate and unequal opportunities for success; and
 WHEREAS, lifting the cap on charter schools would greatly worsen the problems listed above and lead to a costly and divisive two-track school system;
 THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Quincy School Committee opposes lifting the cap on Commonwealth charter schools.*

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the resolution against lifting the charter school cap as presented. Mr. DeAmicis seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0.

Mrs. Mahoney made a friendly recommendation that the Quincy City Council follow suit and pass a similar resolution.

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Mr. Bregoli made a motion to move the development of a Substance Use, Treatment, Education, and Prevention Policy to the Policy Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
 Substance Use, Treatment, Education, and Prevention Policy (Referral to Subcommittee)

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Mr. Bregoli made a motion to move the update of the Medication Administration Policy to the Policy Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Isola and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
 Medication Administration Policy Update (Referral to Subcommittee)

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Ms. Isola made a motion to move the Superintendent's Evaluation to the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
 Superintendent Evaluation (Referral to Subcommittee)

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Mrs. Lebo made a motion to appoint Ms. Kellie Daley-Butts, R.N. as the School Nurse for the Montclair Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Ms. Isola and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

New Business
 School Nurse Appointment (Vote)

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Mr. DeAmicis requested to review the date for the Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee scheduled for October 12 at 5:00 pm. Dr. DeCristofaro said this can be discussed at next week's Special School Committee meeting.

Communications

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Mayor Koch made a motion for School Committee to go to Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations at 7:30 pm. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0. Mr. Bregoli noted that School Committee would be reconvening after Executive Session.

Executive Session

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School Committee returned to regular session at 7:45 pm.

Mrs. Lebo made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Quincy School Committee and the Quincy Public Schools Food Services Workers Unit, SEIU Local 888. Mr. DeAmicis seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0.

MOA with QPS
Food Services Workers
Unit, SEIU Local 888
(Vote)

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Mayor Koch made a motion to adjourn for the evening at 7:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment