

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – January 24, 2018

Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at the Coddington Building at 6:30 p.m. Superintendent DeCristofaro called the roll and present were School Committee Chair Mayor Thomas Koch, Mr. Anthony Andronico, Mr. James DeAmicis, Mr. Douglas Gutro, Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, and Mrs. Emily Lebo, Vice Chair.

Regular Meeting

Vice Chair Presiding

Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Mr. Michael Draicchio, Dr. Beth Hallett, Mr. James Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Ms. Maura Papile, Ms. Erin Perkins, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; Citywide Parents Council Co-Presidents Scott Alessandro and Courtney Perdios; and QHS Student Representative Timothy Nguyen.

School Committee Member Mr. Paul Bregoli was absent.

§

Mr. DeAmicis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for December 6, 2017. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting
Minutes Approved
12.6.2017

Mrs. Hubley made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeAmicis to approve the Organizational Meeting minutes for January 10, 2018. On a voice vote, ayes have it.

Organizational Meeting
Minutes Approved
1.10.2018

§

Mr. Scott Alessandro, Citywide Parent Council Co-President welcomed the new School Committee members and Mrs. Lebo's election as School Committee Vice-Chair. The Citywide Parent Council is looking forward to working with Mayor Koch and School Committee on the important issues common to parents and students and the School Committee.

Open Forum

§

Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report with *Inspire Quincy*, featuring the BOKS program, Sterling Middle School Healthy eating, Substance Use Prevention Week, the Girls Rising Leadership Initiative at Lincoln Hancock Community School, Point Webster Students of the Month, and Kindness Rocks at Lincoln Hancock Community School.

Superintendent's Report

Senior Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile presented on the Substance Use Prevention Week sponsored by the Mayor's Office. Events were scheduled for January 2-5 at both high schools, including speakers and other events. Health Fairs at both schools were postponed by the snowstorm on January 4, 2018. The Health Information fairs will be rescheduled for the week prior to February vacation. Thanks to Mayor Koch and the Peter Thompson Family for the support and funding.

Mayor Koch arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Commissioner of Public Buildings Paul Hines presented on the January 4, 2018 storm impact on the Quincy Public Schools facilities. The flooding at Broad Meadows Middle School was a unique event, astronomically high tide was 15 feet high and compressed the fill around the school building. The National Grid transformer vault (flooded by 9 feet of water) and boiler room (flooded by 6 feet of water) and front of auditorium (flooded by 2 feet through the ventilation system) are all below sea level. Mobile boilers were secured along with emergency generators as soon as possible and this prevented any further damage from pipes freezing in the extreme cold. Restoration services were fully completed within two weeks, mechanical contractors and manufacturing aligned, and the school was only closed for one day (Monday, January 8, 2018). The efforts of the Public Buildings and Maintenance staff, National Grid, outside contractors, and the Quincy Fire Department Emergency Management are to be commended. A long-term goal will be to raise the level of the boiler room above the flood level; a request for emergency funding has been filed with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

On behalf of Principal Gilbert, the students, families, and staff of Broad Meadows Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Mr. Hines, his staff, the outside contractors, and all who responded to this crisis and ensured that the damage was as limited as possible.

Mr. Gutro asked if there were any classrooms flooded and whether there are concerns about further issues developing over time, such as mold. Mr. Hines said only the auditorium was affected, the floor and walls are concrete, the organic wooden materials on the front of the stage have been removed; the boiler room and vault are concrete block so will not be conducive to mold growth. Mr. Hines said that the cold weather was in our favor in this case, the water that entered the building was ocean water, so no contamination from street debris.

Mrs. Lebo noted that a letter from Department of Health Commissioner Scheele was shared with School Committee. Mrs. Lebo said that one of the Broad Meadows neighbors notified Principal Gilbert of the flooding in the neighborhood and this led to the quick response.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked the Parks Department and the Department of Public Works for their response with clearing the snow from school parking lots and sidewalks throughout the city. Transportation services were impacted for the Pre-Kindergarten for the weeks of January 8 and January 15. 15 mini-buses were

damaged by the storm and subsequent extremely cold weather. Vehicles from other city departments were used to transport students and parent assistance secured as needed. Thanks to the Department of Public Works mechanics for their efforts in restoring the mini-buses to service and the Quincy Police Department for their assistance in directing traffic around the Pre-Kindergarten locations. The Superintendent's Leadership Team has worked to revise bus routes several times, the bus drivers have been flexible with the revised routes. The bus repairs will have an impact on the budget and the details will be shared at the January 31 Budget & Finance Subcommittee.

Mrs. Hubley asked what caused the damage to the buses. Dr. DeCristofaro said that for most of the buses, the electrical systems were affected by the storm surge.

Mr. Gutro asked for clarification about where the bus yard is located, in Squantum behind the Senior Center. At a future meeting, would like to discuss what other assets are in the flood zone, including school buildings.

Dr. DeCristofaro said four or five min-buses are still not in service, but all students are being transported at this time on revised routes.

Mayor Koch said that the communication between the department chairs was tremendous, Paul Hines's immediate response saved both the Senior Center and the Broad Meadows Middle School. Mayor Koch is very proud of our public employees and the efforts of so many departments. Mayor Koch said that there will be future discussions about a different site for the bus yard.

Mr. DeAmicis asked if in previous years, were there plans in place to move the buses to a different location. Dr. DeCristofaro said that during the 2015 winter, the buses were moved to Pageant Field, but this has not been implemented since.

Dr. DeCristofaro reviewed the New School Committee Member Orientation held with Mr. Gutro and Mr. Andronico on Saturday, January 6.

School~Community Partnership Events Update: A Matter of Heart provides for CPR/AED training for Grade 8 students across the city, in partnership with Brewster Ambulance. During the week of February 5-9, all Grade 8 students will have an introductory lesson on CPR. On Saturday, February 10 a Full Certification CPR/AED course will be offered for all Grade 8 students and parents at Central Middle School.

The SPLASH program for Grade 2 students learning to swim is ongoing on Tuesday afternoons in partnership with the South Shore YMCA, Tuesday afternoons. All elementary schools will rotate through for 6 weeks over the course of the school year, two schools per session. Read Across America events will be held at elementary schools the week of February 26-March, in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Other March Partnership events include the Grade 5 Student Council Leadership event on March 8, the Credit for Life Fair on March 29 for high school seniors and the annual Partnership Breakfast on March 31.

Dr. DeCristofaro noted the following Student Recognitions for the fall:

- *Boston Globe* Fall Athletic All-Stars and All Scholastics; (*) indicates *Patriot Ledger* All Star as well. Cross-Country: *All-Stars Devin Hiltunen* (NQHS), *Ronan Kelley* (NQHS), *Abby Murphy** (QHS), *Maeve White* (NQHS); Football: *All Stars Ty Finn* (NQHS), *Tim Layden* (NQHS), *Nelson Walinjom* (NQHS), *Jamal Williams** (QHS); Golf: *All-Star Tom Kelley* (NQHS); Soccer: *All Scholastic and Patriot League MVP Vanjel Gjergo** (NQHS); *All-Stars Doug Brown* (NQHS), *Isabel Doherty** (QHS), *Jillian Hallisey* (NQHS), *Kevin O'Shea* (QHS), *Gredi Zyba* (QHS); Volleyball: *All-Stars Shannon Foley** (QHS), *Julia Klincewicz* (NQHS), *Aleksandra Qose** (NQHS), *Sharon Yang* (NQHS)
- Quincy High School student *Daniel Hagborg* (Clarinet) was selected as a member of the Massachusetts Music Educators (MME) Eastern District Senior Concert Band. Quincy High School students *Emily Crosta*, *Stephen Hallahan*, *Aisling Mannion*, and *Amanda Morris* were selected as members of the MME Eastern District Senior Chorus. These students auditioned for their places in the Festival Chorus and Band and had the opportunity to perform under the direction of nationally prominent music educators.
- The Quincy Lions Club Youth Speech Contest was held in December and this year's topic was "The Impact of Volunteerism." Quincy High School student *Jola Laguda* placed first and North Quincy High School student *Aymen Sadaka* was named the alternate. Ms. Laguda will go on to compete at the district level and if successful, compete at the statewide event where five students will each represent different regions of the state.
- Atlantic's *Young Writers* Literary Magazine won the American Scholastic Press Association's First Place Award for Most Outstanding Intermediate School Literary-Art Magazine for 2017.

Dr. DeCristofaro said that Quincy Public Schools recently received a donation of \$24,000 from Reebok International to fund the BOKS before school education program. This is the third year of four-year grant and the program is held at all elementary and middle school sites.

A Topping Off Ceremony was held on December 16 for the new Southwest Quincy middle school, hosted by members of the Junior Building Committee. Executive Director Jack McCarthy from the MSBA was present at the event along with representatives from the City's architect Ai3, the project construction firm Bond, and owner's project manager PCA 360.

Two Parent Academies were held on in January, the first was on educating parents and community members about teen vaping and the second, held at the monthly Citywide Parent Council meeting was on preparing students for MCAS.

Dr. DeCristofaro announced that Mr. Michael Marani has been appointed as Principal of the Snug Harbor Community School. Mr. Marani was previously the Assistant Principal at Snug Harbor for four years. Ms. Diane Babcock has been appointed Assistant Principal at the Snug Harbor Community School. Ms. Babcock

has been a Language Development Teacher at both Atherton Hough and Parker Elementary Schools. Both Mr. Marani and Ms. Babcock have been acting administrators in these roles since August 2017.

Dr. DeCristofaro concluded his report by noting that Home School Connections were shared with School Committee: Atlantic monthly newsletter, Broad Meadows and Point Webster curriculum newsletters.

§

Both the School Committee Meeting Calendar for 2018-2019 and the School Year Calendar for 2018-2019 were on the table for discussion. These will both be posted for public comment and voted on at the next School Committee meeting on February 7, 2018.

Old Business

2018-2019 School Committee Meeting Calendar & School Year Calendar

§

Director of Special Education Erin Perkins, Senior Curriculum Director Madeline Roy, and Curriculum Director Beth Hallett presented an overview of the development process for the 2017-2018 Assessment Calendar. The calendar integrates the state-mandated MCAS and ACCESS testing with district assessments used for school-level decisions about individual student educational needs.

New Business

2017-2018 Assessment Calendar

Each fall, elementary students are assessed through DIBELS Next, the Developmental Reading Inventory (DRA), and the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). All benchmark data is reviewed during Integrated Learning Team meetings where individual plans are created to meet student needs, including 3-tiered interventions. At the middle school level, end of chapter assessments from the core ELA, Mathematics, and Science curriculum are used, along with the MAP Benchmarks and iReady Diagnostic tests. At the high school level, teachers use formative assessments throughout the term. The MCAS retest also is scheduled in November for ELA and Mathematics.

During the Winter, elementary students are progress monitored through the DIBELS Next assessment. Middle school students are assessed through MAP and high school students complete mid-year exam or projects at the conclusion of the 2nd term. English Language Learners are assessed in English proficiency through the online ACCESS testing.

The Spring administration window has MCAS testing for Grades 3-8 and 10 for ELA and Mathematics; Grades 5 and 8 for Science/Technology/Engineering; and Grade 10 Biology. At the elementary and middle school levels, Mini-Integrated Learning Team meetings occur between benchmarking periods and are used to review progress monitoring data and make adjustments to interventions and supports as needed. In addition, Quincy Public Schools' newest students entering Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten are assessed for school readiness in the areas of gross and fine motor development and pre-academic skills. For Grade 8

students, high school course level recommendations are created at the end of the 2nd term. For the high schools, Grade 10 students will also participate in a mandatory online field test, in anticipation of DESE’s transition to online testing in 2019. High school juniors and seniors will take Advanced Placement exams in 19 subjects; SATs are scheduled throughout the spring. The year ends with culminating final exams in the last week of high school.

Many staff members participate in the planning and execution of the QPS Assessment Calendar, it is a collaboration of the Superintendent’s Leadership Team, Principals, Teachers, Specialists, Paraprofessionals, Student Support and Academic Teams, Grade-Level, Departmental, and Vertical Teams. Quincy Public Schools educational philosophy is centered around Student Learning with a continuous cycle of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.

Mr. Gutro said that as a parent, he is glad to hear that standardized tests are not the only means of measurement of student achievement but is concerned that other than the MCAS, there isn’t formal notification of these assessments being scheduled. At the elementary and middle school level, many of these assessments are used to individualize instruction and would be discussed for students with interventions. The MAP student profile report is being shared with parents at the elementary level. Since the MAP is new at the middle school, the reporting has not yet been shared with families.

Mr. Gutro suggested that an overview of the assessment picture for students would be helpful to be shared with parents for each grade. Mr. Gutro also suggested that standard definitions and timeline be shared with principals and teachers for conferences and PTO meetings.

Mrs. Lebo asked for clarification on the high school Biology test. It can be taken as a retest in February or as an initial test in June. Mrs. Lebo requested that SATs be added to the Assessment calendar, also noted that some school districts are now administering SATs during the school day.

§

Executive Director of Instructional Technology Keith Segalla reviewed the Mayor’s Technology Initiative. In preparation for the upcoming online testing for Grades 4 and 5 for MCAS, an analysis was performed and funding appropriated to ensure that a device will be available for each student at each tested grade level. The average ratio of computers to the total school population is no more than five students for each computer at the elementary school level, with some schools having lower ratios. Increased student access to the devices will allow for pre-assessment familiarity and reduce the number of days dedicated to testing at the larger elementary schools.

New Business
Elementary School
Technology Initiative

Mr. Gutro asked if this remedied the concerns about the increased demand for online testing. Mr. Segalla said this will ensure that on testing days, each elementary student will be testing on a familiar device. At the middle school level, the larger schools currently have a higher than optimal ratio which will hopefully be addressed during the upcoming budget season.

Mayor Koch thanked Mrs. Perdios for her initiative in reaching out to him. PTOs should not have to raise money

Mrs. Lebo thanked the Mayor for his appropriation and asked for clarification whether the Grade 4 and 5 students test on different days, which they do. Mrs. Lebo sked Mr. Segalla for a benchmark of the most favorable ratio of students to computers for future planning.

§

Mayor Koch made a motion to support the submission of the Core Program Statement of Interest for the Squantum Elementary School.

New Business

MSBA Core SOI:
Squantum Elementary
School (Vote)

Be It Resolved:

Having convened in an open meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, prior to the closing date, the Quincy School Committee, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 6, 2018 for the Squantum Elementary School located at 50 Huckins Avenue, Quincy, Massachusetts which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

Priority 7: Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with the state and approved local requirements.

Description of Deficiencies for Priority 7: The Squantum Elementary School was built in 1919 and an addition constructed in 1971. In forty-six years, it has not received any substantial upgrades or improvements to the infrastructure or to the interior/exterior structures. Although the custodial and maintenance staffs are attentive to this building's operational needs, a large portion of Squantum's mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems were installed during the original construction of the facility. Aside from the improvements needed to the physical plant, educational components crucial for 21st century elementary schools are lacking, specifically classrooms equipped for the integration of educational technology and STEM concepts integral for standards-based instruction for regular education, Special Education, and English

Language Learner students. Squantum’s nurse’s office, student support staff offices, cafeteria/ gymnasium, and media center are all undersized and under-equipped by modern educational standards.

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City of Quincy to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a role call vote, the ayes have it 6-0. Mr. Bregoli was absent.

§

Mayor Koch made a motion to support the submission of the Accelerated Repair Program Statement of Interest for replacement of the boiler at the F.W. Parker Elementary School.

MSBA ARP SOI:
F.W. Parker
Elementary School
Boiler (Vote)

Be It Resolved:

Having convened in an open meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, prior to the closing date, the Quincy School Committee, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 16, 2018 for the F.W. Parker Elementary School located at 148 Billings Road, Quincy, Massachusetts which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

Priority 5: Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy-related costs in a school facility.

Description of Deficiencies for Priority 5: The F.W. Parker Elementary School was built in 1917 and renovated in 1955 and 1995. Given the innovations in HVAC technology since the building renovation was completed, the F.W. Parker Elementary School’s energy efficiency would be substantially improved by the installation of a replacement boiler.

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or

commits the City of Quincy to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Mr. DeAmicis seconded the motion and on a role call vote, the ayes have it 6-0. Mr. Bregoli was absent.

§

Mayor Koch made a motion to support the submission of the Accelerated Repair Program Statement of Interest for replacement of the windows and doors at the Point Webster Middle School.

MSBA ARP SOI:
Point Webster Middle
School Windows & Doors
(Vote)

Be It Resolved:

Having convened in an open meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, prior to the closing date, the Quincy School Committee, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 16, 2018 for the **Point Webster Middle School** located at 60 Lancaster Street, Quincy, Massachusetts which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

Priority 5: Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy-related costs in a school facility.

Description of Deficiencies for Priority 5: The Point Webster Middle School was built in 1917 and renovated in 1998. Given the innovation in window manufacturing technology since the building renovation was completed, the Point Webster Middle School’s energy efficiency would be substantially improved by the installation of replacement windows. New replacement windows would also increase the amount of natural light entering classrooms, creating a better learning environment.

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City of Quincy to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

On the motion, Mayor Koch thanked the MSBA, Treasurer Goldberg, and MSBA Executive Director Jack McCarthy, and the state legislature, Quincy has received \$135 million in reimbursements over the last decade.

Mrs. Lebo also thanked former Treasurer Mr. Timothy Cahill for his role in creating the MSBA.

Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a role call vote, the ayes have it 6-0. Mr. Bregoli was absent.

§

Mayor Koch made a motion to accept the gift of \$7,500.00 to benefit the Quincy Public Schools Music Department from the Randy C. Wolfe Trust. Mr. DeAmicis seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Gift: \$7,500 from the Randy C. Wolfe Trust (Vote)

§

Mayor Koch made a motion to accept the gift of \$3,420.00 from the Quincy High School Class of 1954 to benefit Boys and Girls Athletics at Quincy High School. Mr. Andronico seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Gift: \$3,420 from the QHS Class of 1954 (Vote)

Mrs. Lebo asked that acknowledgment be sent on behalf of the School Committee.

§

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the February 9-11, 2018 Overnight Travel (In-State) of Quincy High School to the Boston University Model UN Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andronico and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
Overnight Travel (In-State)

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the March 9-11, 2018 Overnight Travel (In-State) of Quincy High School to the Massachusetts Association of Student Council Conference in Hyannis, Massachusetts. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAmicis and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

§

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the April 6-10, 2018 Out of State Travel (Overnight) of North Quincy High School AFJROTC to Yorktown, Virginia. Mr. DeAmicis seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
Out of State Travel (Overnight)

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the March 16-19, 2018 Out of State Travel (Overnight) of North Quincy & Quincy High School Robotics to FRC Robotics Competition, Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut. Mr. Andronico seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

§

Mr. DeAmicis made a motion to approve the April 10-21, 2018 Out of the Country Travel of North Quincy High School Robotics to Paris and Bourges, France. Mr. Andronico seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
Out of the Country
Travel

§

There was no Additional Business.

Additional Business

§

Upcoming meetings were announced: Regular Meetings on February 7, March 7, and March 21, 2018 at the Coddington Building at 6:30 pm.

Communications

Subcommittee Meetings will be held on January 31, 2018: Budget & Finance at 6:00 pm and Teaching & Learning at 6:15 pm. Teaching & Learning meetings will also be held on February 28 and March 28 at 6:00 pm. On March 14, 2018, the Athletics & Wellness Subcommittee will meet at 6:00 pm and the Facilities & Security Subcommittee will meet at 6:30 pm.

Mrs. Lebo noted that the QHS Science Fair is at 5:30 pm on February 7, 2018.

§

Mrs. Lebo noted that all School Committee and Subcommittee meeting minutes are posted online at www.quincypublicschools.com.

Reports of
Subcommittees

Mrs. Hubley reviewed the Policy Subcommittee meeting held on January 17, 2018. Drafts of the 2018-2019 School Committee Meeting and School Year Calendars were shared and moved back to the full School Committee for consideration.

Policy
Subcommittee

As there were no corrections, the meeting minutes for the January 17, 2018 Policy Subcommittee were approved as presented.

§

Mr. Andronico reviewed the Special Education Subcommittee meeting held on January 17, 2018. The meeting featured the annual Special Education Rights & Responsibilities presentation, along with a review of the Special Education Program Pathways.

Special Education
Subcommittee

As there were no corrections, the meeting minutes for the January 17, 2018 Special Education Subcommittee were approved as presented.

§

There was no Executive Session.

Executive Session

§

Mayor Koch made a motion to adjourn for the evening at 8:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment