

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – October 11, 2017

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at the Coddington Building 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, and Mr. Paul Bregoli, Vice Chair.

Regular Meeting  
Vice Chair Presiding

Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Ms. Janet Baglione, Ms. Lori Cahill, Ms. Kerri Connolly, Mr. Michael Draicchio, Ms. Julie Graham, Dr. Beth Hallett, Mr. James Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Mrs. Maura Papile, Mrs. Erin Perkins, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla, Ms. Jessica Sikora, Ms. Bridget Vaughan; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; Citywide Parents Council Co-President Courtney Perdios; Quincy High School Student Representative Timothy Nguyen and North Quincy High School Student Representative Luke Molloy.

Mrs. Mahoney was absent.

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There was a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the Las Vegas tragedy and also for former employee Wayne Mirick, Quincy Public Schools employee for thirty five years, most recently as an Attendance Officer.

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Mr. DeAmicis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for September 27, 2017. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting  
Minutes Approved  
9.27.2017

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John Rodephele requested coordination of next year's meeting calendar so that Planning Board and Conservation board meetings don't overlap with School Committee meetings.

Open Forum

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Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report with a review of the October 10 Professional Development afternoon for elementary and high school teachers. Over 500 Academic Classroom and Program Teachers, plus Academic Support

Superintendent's Report

Staff members participated. Staff were able to choose from professional development opportunities for enhancing technical skills, classroom instruction, and supporting social emotional learning.

Upcoming Quincy Public Schools events include the Open House events for Grade 8 Students and Families at Quincy High School on Monday, October 23 and North Quincy High school on Tuesday, October 24, both at 6:30 pm. The Point Webster 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be held on November 18 at 2:00 pm. The Wollaston School Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, October 14 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. A Pre-Kindergarten Parent Academy will be held on October 24 at 6:00 pm at Central Middle School, in partnership with QPAC to Special Education.

North Quincy High School is the recipient of a Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant Award of \$138,000 Grant for the Engineering Program, thanks to Keith Segalla, Principal Robert Shaw, and teacher Jessica Flaherty for their efforts in securing this grant.

The Quincy Public Schools Health & Wellness Symposium will be held on Wednesday, October 18 at the Tirrell Room at 3:00 pm. Principals, School Nurses, and site-based Health & Wellness Team members will meet to share best practices and set school wellness goals. This system-wide collaboration opportunity is thanks to Rita Bailey and Maura Papile.

Quincy School~Community Partnership Events: SPLASH Learn to Swim with the South Shore YMCA, which began this week and the upcoming Teacher Mini-Grants Reception on November 2 at the Neighborhood Club. On October 13 at 3:30 pm, representatives from TD Bank and Boston Celtics will be at Lincoln Hancock Elementary School for the opening of the recently renovated Music Room, a project that was completed in partnership with QCARE.

Due to the delayed release of MCAS 2.0 data by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, School and Program Improvement Plan presentations have been rescheduled into mid-November. A revised calendar of meeting dates was shared with School Committee.

At the annual Professional Teacher Status reception, 50 teachers will be recognized at the Bradford Library at Quincy High School on Thursday, October 12 at 3:00 pm. Thanks to Kevin Mulvey and the Human Resources staff.

Dr. DeCristofaro shared the October 1 Enrollment overview, highlights include enrollment increased by 155 students this year, 99 of this increase are split between the two high schools. No significant increases or decreases at the elementary level, where class sizes are favorable with an average of 19-20 students per grade. At the middle school level, Atlantic, Point Webster, and Sterling have increases of 20+ students. 89% of middle school classes are at 24 or fewer students. At the high school level, 84% of sections have 25 or fewer

students. Science and foreign language class sizes are at 26 students or below, so no issues with equipment or materials. Opportunities and Challenges based on enrollment projections and building capacity overviews will be presented at the February Facilities & Security Subcommittee meeting.

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There was no Old Business on the Agenda.

Old Business

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Coordinator of English Language Arts Bridget Vaughan and Literacy Teacher Janet Baglione presented the Literacy Program Improvement Plan, reviewing the program goal of identifying and supporting students who struggle to acquire foundational literacy skills. Students are identified at the Integrated Learning Team meetings at each elementary school based on assessment results and overall reading performance. Literacy teachers provide interventions to struggling readers in Kindergarten through Grade 4, also known as Tier III students, who are currently at risk for low reading achievement and require reading interventions to accelerate student growth. Literacy teachers have a menu of instructional interventions in the areas of Phonics, Phonemic Awareness, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension.

New Business

Program Improvement Plan Presentation: Literacy

In reflecting on last year’s goals, the first goal focused on reducing the number of students requiring Tier 3 interventions. This goal was met for Grades 1 and 2, but technically not for Kindergarten. Part of the issues is the number of different subtests for DIBELS Next in Kindergarten. In Grade 3, the focus shifts from learning to read and reading to learn and the DIBELS Next assessment only measures reading fluency rate. The MAP Assessment is now in place to assist in supporting the second goal, to increase the RIT scores by 10 points for both Grades 2 and 3, which was met. The third goal was to create a uniform protocol for the Integrated Learning Team Meeting and the team created a document in collaboration with the Special Education and Student Support departments and revised the Individual Accommodation Plan (ICAP).

For 2017-2018, the goal of decreasing Tier 3 students by 3% will be continued for Grades K-2. The second goal is to increase the RIT scores on the MAP Assessments through the implementation of Guided Reading and Close Reading Strategies by 10 points. Professional Development to support these initiatives will be provided in intervals throughout the year. The third goal is to continue to collaborate with grade-level teachers, Special Education, and English Learner teachers on more effective use of data and implementing mini-ILTs as needed during the school year. The Literacy Team meets monthly to collaborate on achievement of these goals and refine action steps.

Mrs. Lebo thanked the presenters, all of her questions were answered during the presentation. Ms. Isola thanked the presenters as well, noting she is always struck by the communication between the Literacy team, the classroom teachers, and the other academic supports within each school, setting up our students for success. The Literacy Team has been expanded far beyond the reductions of the lean budget years and this is great to see.

Mr. Molloy asked what the range of the RIT scale is. Mrs. Baglione said the range is normed for each grade level and are different for different times of the year.

Mr. Bregoli noted that the Literacy program has assisted with early interventions, Mrs. Baglione said the goal is to close the literacy skills gap before Grade 2. At the Kindergarten level, there is some push-in to the classroom, including all students in an effort to identify students needing supports as soon as possible. Mr. Bregoli asked if there are fewer Resource Room referrals as a result. Mrs. Baglione said this varies from year to year, but the early Literacy supports assist with furthering Resource Room interventions.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked the presenters, the communication ensures that all teachers are on the same instructional wavelength, providing the targeted assistance to ensure success for all students.

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Team Administrators Julie Graham and Kerri Connolly presented the Early Childhood Program Improvement Plan, in service of the program’s mission of providing enriching programs for young children identified with special needs as well as their typically-developing peers. The curriculum meets the social, emotional, cognitive, and developmental needs of our young children, the foundation for life-long learning. Pre-Kindergarten classes range from 10 to 15 students, depending on whether they are integrated or Special Education programs. In addition, Early Childhood encompasses the 755 Kindergarten students in general education and special education classrooms. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year of free-Full-Day Kindergarten for Quincy Public Schools. All Kindergarten classes are supported by a full-time Paraprofessional staff member and both curriculum and assessments are common among all school sites.

New Business

Program Improvement  
Plan Presentation:  
Early Childhood

Ms. Connolly presented a reflection on last year’s goals. The Kindergarten team successfully implemented an electronic standards-based report card utilizing ASPEN. The Pre-Kindergarten team was successful in their implementation of a Developmental Checklist. In addition, the Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten teams worked to align components of the Handwriting Without Tears Curriculum within their current classroom practices and the Pre-Kindergarten team participated in training for the administration of PreLAS, to assist with identifying students with English Learner Education needs.

For 2017-2018, goals include training in the implementation of PBIS and Calm Classroom in the Pre-Kindergarten setting and integrating this with current classroom practices based on the MA Standards for Social and Emotional Learning and Approaches to Play and Learning. Standards include self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsive decision-making. Goal 2 is for Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten teachers to utilize strategies and materials from Foundations in Mathematics course to further support student success in the content area of mathematics.

Pre-Kindergarten teacher Lori Cahill spoke about the continuity provided by the common curriculum, which allows for maximum student support. The scope and sequence ensures that students are prepared for Kindergarten at their neighborhood schools. Collaboration among the staff at Della Chiesa ECC and Snug Harbor ensures for fluidity; if students change schools or programs, they will be able to transition into a familiar classroom routine and curriculum. The third goal is for the Pre-Kindergarten team to provide opportunities to further develop the collaboration between the home and school environments.

Ms. Isola asked if there is a correlation between the math manipulatives and concept development. Ms. Graham said the kinesthetic connection is very important in conceptual development. Ms. Isola enjoyed the Calm Classroom video, mindfulness is very important, learning it young is wonderful.

Mr. Bregoli asked if the Pre-Kindergarten schedule has changed. Ms. Graham said there is one classroom at each site that are full days Monday-Thursday or Wednesday-Friday. All other integrated Pre-Kindergarten classes are half-day on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Mr. Molloy noted that he is a member of the first Full-Day Kindergarten cohort who entered in 2006. He would like to see Calm Classroom at the high school level and complimented having the video clips to support the program evidence.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked both the presenters, their extraordinary collaboration and professional development ensure that staff have an investment in the goals and action steps. Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Public Buildings for the work in creating the two new classrooms at Della Chiesa.

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Mrs. Hubley made a motion that she will represent the Quincy School Committee at the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. The motion was seconded by Ms. Isola and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business

MASC Conference Delegate

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Mr. Bregoli made a motion to refer the revision of the Fuel Efficient Fleet Policy to the Policy Subcommittee. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business  
Fuel Efficient  
Fleet Policy (Revision)

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Mrs. Lebo announced that on September 5, 2017, the Joint Committee on Education met at the State House to discuss a pending bill would allow for 100 minutes per week of recess to be counted as scheduled time on learning (20 minutes per day). House Bill H.235 and Senate Bill S.308; Ms. Owens will send copies to all School Committee members.

Additional Business

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Upcoming meetings were announced: October 25, 2017 at Point Webster Middle School at 6:30 p.m.; November 15, 2017 at the Coddington Building (Executive Session at 6:00 pm, followed by the Regular Meeting at 6:30 pm); and December 6, 2017 at Central Middle School at 6:00 pm.

Communications

Subcommittee Meetings will be held on October 19, 2017 (Budget & Finance at 5:00 p.m.; Facilities & Security at 5:30 p.m.; and Policy at 6:00 pm); November 13, 2017 (Athletics at 5:00 pm and Teaching & Learning at 5:30 pm); November 14, 20, and 21, 2017 (Teaching & Learning, all at 5:00 pm).

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Mr. Bregoli noted that all School Committee and Subcommittee meeting minutes are posted online at [www.quincypublicschools.com](http://www.quincypublicschools.com). There were no Subcommittee Meetings for review on the Agenda.

Reports of  
Subcommittees

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There was no Executive Session.

Executive Session

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Mayor Koch made a motion to adjourn for the evening at 7:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment