

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – November 15, 2017

Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at the Coddington Building at 6:00 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. Sarah Anderson, Ms. Donna Cunningham, Mr. Michael Draicchio, Ms. Julie Graham, Dr. Beth Hallett, Mr. Richard Kelly, Mr. James Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Ms. Maura Papile, Ms. Erin Perkins, Ms. Kimberly Quinn, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mr. Edward Smith, Ms. Bridget Vaughan; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; Citywide Parents Council Co-President Courtney Perdios; Quincy Parent Advisory Council to Special Education President Cassandra Beck; Quincy High School Student Representatives Timothy Nguyen and Alana Huang.

Mrs. Mahoney was absent.

Mr. Bregoli moved to take the School Committee Agenda out of order. The motion was seconded by Ms. Isola and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Executive Session

Mr. Bregoli then moved for School Committee to go into Executive Session for the purpose of hearing a Level III Grievance. Ms. Isola seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mr. Bregoli noted that School Committee would return to the Regular Meeting at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Return to Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting resumed at 6:35 pm.

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Mrs. Lebo made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for October 25, 2017. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting Minutes Approved 10.25.2017

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As no one wished to speak at Open Forum, School Committee moved on to the next item on the Agenda.

Open Forum

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Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report with Inspire Quincy featuring Motor Activity Day at Della Chiesa, Farm to School at Lincoln Hancock, the Snug Harbor running club, the Teacher Mini-Grant Reception, Elks Dictionary donations, Point Webster Middle School students of the month, Middle School Tennis Championships, Middle School Cross-Country Championships, Veterans Day Celebration at Sterling Middle School, and the new Marching Band uniforms.

Director of Special Education Erin Perkins reviewed the Pre-Kindergarten Parent Academy held on October 24, 60 parents were supported by 20 Quincy Public Schools staff members. Dr. Cardello from Childrens Hospital presented on growth and development, nutrition, and sleep. This was a very successful event that we plan to repeat next year. The next Parent Academy will be December 5 at Central, Dr. Gaab from Children's Hospital will present on the developing brain.

STEM Team Administrator Edward Smith introduced a renewed partnership with Proctor & Gamble/Gillette, mechanical engineer Zach Egan who attended Wollaston, Central, and North Quincy High School and is a HYPER Robotics alumni. His proposal was accepted by Gillette for a \$10,000 grant and 50 students from middle and high schools visited at Gillette on November 7, showcasing their robotics projects.

At the Middle School Cross Country All-City Meet, over 200 students competed; and at the Middle School Tennis City Championship, 140 students competed. Thanks to the support of teachers and site athletic coordinators for a successful fall season.

The 2017 Holiday Concert schedule was shared and Dr. DeCristofaro noted that the 16th annual 'Tis the Season concert is scheduled for Monday, December 11 at Quincy High School, a collaboration with the Quincy Symphony Orchestra.

At 18th Annual Mini-Grants Reception, \$32,000 in grants from Quincy School Community Partnership members were shared with for 80 professional staff members.

A Building Committee meeting was held on November 14, with representatives from Bond (construction), PCA 360 (project management), and Ai3 (architects). The presentation will be posted on the QPS website and student learning opportunities will take place beginning in December for Grade 4 students at Lincoln Hancock, all grades at Sterling, and Quincy High School CTE students. A Topping Off Ceremony will be December 14 at 10:00 am.

The next School Committee meeting will be December 6 at 6:00 pm at Central Middle School in recognition of American Education Week.

There was no Old Business on the Agenda.

Old Business

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Director of Special Education Erin Perkins presented the Special Education Program Improvement Plan, reviewing the Special Education Department mission: to provide specially designed instruction and/or related services based on individual student needs; assisting students in becoming independent and productive members of society; designing lessons that build on individual strengths and abilities; and meeting the diverse academic, emotional, and social needs of all students. Mrs. Perkins introduced the Special Education staff and explained that the focus of tonight’s presentation is Mathematics instruction in the Special Education classrooms, both substantially separate and inclusion.

New Business

Program Improvement Plan Presentation: Special Education

In reviewing MCAS results for Students with Disabilities, for ELA, Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 were above state averages for Meeting or Exceeding Expectations. For Mathematics, Grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 were above the state average. For Grade 10, students with disabilities exceeded state levels for passing for the second year in a row. Student Growth for ELA and Math was within the average range of 40-60% with the exception of Grade 6 Math. For Average Percent Correct, Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10 were above the state average and Grade 8 was one point below. For Mathematics, Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 were above the state average, Grade 7 was at state average, and Grade 8 was just below.

Mrs. Cunningham presented on the Special Education goals, reflecting on the completion of last year’s goals and moving forward to the new year. In the third year of the Aspen Special Education module implementation, the focus for training will be on increasing services and timeline compliance. The Special Education Team is looking forward to collaborating with the Quincy Parent Advisory Council to Special Education on upcoming Parent Academies, including a collaboration with Curriculum Team on Understanding Assessments for all students.

There are separate goals for Elementary, Middle, and High School Special Education Teams. For Elementary grades, collaboration will continue with Literacy and English Learners to identify and certify students for special education services using the Response to Intervention method.

Coordinator of Special Education for Grades 6-12 Sarah Anderson said that this year’s MCAS data shows that Students with Disabilities are making progress compared to the achievement of students across the state. For middle school students on IEPs, this year’s goal is to increase the MAP RIT scores by 6 points over the course of the school year. The goal will be supported through professional development for guided math and iReady online instruction. Middle and high school general and special teachers will be collaborating to develop a district inclusion model and professional development course to be

offered in Summer 2018. The course will focus on successful co-teaching partnerships and ultimately provide more access to general education classes for students with special needs.

Mrs. Perkins said that there are discussions with some out of district families about 18 to 22 year old students transitioning to the LEAP Program, now underway in the 2nd year.

Mr. Kelley outlined the goals of the Special Education program teams: Occupational Therapy (incorporate additional strategies focused on improved regulation), Speech (modify the data collection rubric), Language Development (implement consistent Language Based Instruction across subject areas), GOALS (dropout prevention practices), and CARES/SNLC (increase use of the Unique Learning System and support MCAS Alternate portfolio development).

Mrs. Perkins shared the related Professional Development for the Special Education staff. Some opportunities are common with general education teachers, coaching, observation, updating teacher practices in action. Mrs. Perkins thanked Curriculum Team Administrators Bridget Vaughan and Kimberly Quinn for their planning of inclusive professional development and support for all teachers.

Mrs. Lebo thanked Mrs. Perkins for the presentation, very excited to see the inclusion model evolving. Mrs. Lebo asked about ABA staff. Mrs. Perkins said there are three BCBA consultants in our classrooms on a daily basis, and the paraprofessionals are trained by them.

Ms. Isola made a motion to approve the Special Education Program Improvement Plan. The motion was seconded by Mayor Koch and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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Senior Director of Curriculum Madeline Roy presented an overview of the District Data and Curriculum Team Goals, the work of the Curriculum Directors supported by Team Administrators for Curriculum and Special Education. Ms. Roy reviewed that Next Generation Assessments were administered for Grades 3-8 beginning in Spring 2017; these assessments are aligned to the Common Core Standards for ELA and Mathematics, with an emphasis on critical thinking and multi-part problem solving. A new scoring report was released to parents on November 1; parents see overall scores and achievement levels for each content area and comparison to average schools for schools, district, and across the state. For students in Grades 5 and 8, Science Assessments are the legacy test. Detailed data for all grade levels was provided to School Committee and is available on the QPS and DESE websites.

New Business

District Data Overview and Curriculum Team Goals

Dr. Hallett presented the High School Legacy MCAS overview; there was no change to the scoring levels or reporting to parents. Current Grade 10 students will also be taking the legacy MCAS in Spring 2018. For the class of 2021 (current Grade 9 students), these students will take the Computer-Based Next Generation Assessment. There will be mandated field tests in Spring 2018 for Grade 10 students; 25% of students will be randomly assigned to either ELA or Mathematics. There will be an optional Biology & Physics field test as well. Tonight's presentation will focus on Grades 5, 8, and 10 since these levels have Assessments in ELA, Mathematics, and Science and often represent the highest grade of testing for a school, the cumulative effort of learning.

For Grade 10, 92% of all students were Advanced or Proficient on the ELA MCAS, 83% were Advanced or Proficient for Mathematics, and 78% of all students were Advanced or Proficient for Science and Technology/Engineering. All students scored higher than the state average on all question types in all curriculum areas.

For Grade 8, 58% of students scored in the Meeting or Exceeding Expectations categories for ELA, 50% of students scored in the Meeting or Exceeding Expectations categories for Mathematics, and 40 % of students scored Proficient or Advanced for Science. For all curriculum areas, the students scored at or above state levels. Growth was 64% on average for Mathematics, a promising development.

For Grade 5, 54% of all students were at the Meeting or Exceeding Expectations level for both Mathematics and ELA and 54% of all students were at the Proficient or Advanced level for Science/Technology & Engineering. Targeted instruction will be supported by after school enrichment and academic support programs at the elementary levels, including homework support

For the High Needs Subgroup, 85% of Grade 10 students were Proficient or Advanced for ELA MCAS, 72% for Mathematics, and average growth was 55% for ELA and 68% for Mathematics. Scores were above the state level for all standards and all question types. Grade 8 High Needs students scored 39% Meeting or Exceeding Expectations for ELA and 38% for Mathematics. 40% of High Needs Grade 5 students were in the Meeting or Exceeding Expectations for ELA and 44% in Mathematics.

Looking ahead, increased investment in curriculum and professional development will support instructional and enrichment activities. Coaching and modeling of best practices will increase opportunities for targeted dialogue and participation in small group settings. Increased focus on justification or explanation of work will assist students in developing the higher order thinking skills needed for success in college and career. A major area of focus will be the Science/Technology/Engineering area, where there is clearly work to be done to support and reinforce Grades 6 and 7 Science curriculum as these are assessed in Grade 8.

Vertical teams will work to identify system-wide needs for Science instruction, including revision of pacing guides and updating of curriculum materials where needed. STEM Team Administrator Edward Smith will also meet with site-based Science Vertical Teams to closely analyze data on problem types and curriculum strands. Extracurricular supports will be available through Lego League Robotics. At Sterling Middle School, a Junior Building Committee will be established to go along with the construction of the new school. Other middle schools have coding and open computer opportunities.

Beyond the scores, Quincy Public Schools continues to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment for students, encourages students to persevere in their studies, seek challenges, discover their gifts and talents, and value and respect each other. Teachers will be supported through high-quality professional development, opportunities for collaboration, print and digital curriculum resources, technology, and connections to the community.

District Goals for 2017-2018 are: (1) ELA K-8: Students will show evidence of growth and achievement in Reading as measured by average percent correct on the Next Generation MCAS Spring 2018 Report and an increase of 10 RIT points above the Fall average as indicated by the Spring 2018 MAP District Summary Report. (2) Mathematics K-8: Students will show evidence of growth and achievement in Mathematics as measured by average percent correct on the Next Generation MCAS Spring 2018 Report and an increase of 10 RIT points above the Fall average as indicated by the Spring 2018 MAP District Summary Report. (3) Science Technology Engineering Grade 8: Students will show evidence of growth and achievement in Science, Technology/Engineering as evidenced by a 3% increase in APC (from a base of 63%) with a specific focus on close reading of informational text, constructing sound written arguments, and an increased understanding of the domains of Earth and Space, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences.

Mayor Koch left the meeting at 8:15 pm.

The Curriculum Team will be presenting at the January 8, 2018 Citywide Parent Council meeting on the upcoming Spring 2018 MCAS Assessments. Parents of students in Grades 4 and 7 may have particular interest, as these are the grades that will begin Computer-Based testing this school year.

Ms. Isola thanked the presenters, it is apparent how much thought and analysis go into looking at this data and using it to work with students and teachers. The team is constantly thinking of new innovations to assist our students.

Mrs. Lebo reiterated Ms. Isola's comments, complimented the model of coaching teachers. Mrs. Lebo said that it is apparent that the Principals and school staffs see the Coddington staff as very helpful and supportive.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked School Committee for sharing in the Teaching & Learning process, listening, supporting, and suggesting. The expanded Curriculum Team allows for a new level of collaboration with Principals, teachers, and this extraordinary effort is all to be sure “the rain hits the ground”.

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Mrs. Hubley thanked her colleagues for the honor of representing the Quincy School Committee at the Massachusetts Association of School Committees conference. All of the resolutions discussed at the October 25, 2017 School Committee meeting were passed at the MASC general meeting. Resolution 1 was amended to make January 31 the recommended date for enrollment figures.

New Business
MASC Conference Update

Mrs. Lebo submitted a packet of information about the MCAS essay text box concern, which Mrs. Hubley distributed at the General Meeting and passed on to Acting DESE Commissioner Jeff Wulfson.

Ms. Isola thanked Mrs. Lebo for bringing the issue to School Committee. Hopefully, there will be some response from other School Committees and from DESE.

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Ms. Isola made a motion to approve the April 13-22, 2018 Out of the Country Travel of Quincy High School to Berlin, Germany; Prague, Czech Republic; Krakow, Poland; and Budapest, Hungary. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
Out of the Country Travel

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Mr. DeAmicis made a motion to approve the November 30-December 3, 2017 Out of State Travel (Overnight) of Quincy High School to the Yale Model Congress in New Haven, Connecticut. Mrs. Hubley 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 June 7-8, 2018 Out of State Travel (Overnight) of Atlantic Middle School Grade 8 to New York City, New York. Mr. DeAmicis seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

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There was no Additional Business.

Additional Business

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Upcoming meetings were announced: January 11 and 24, 2018 at the Coddington Building at 6:30 pm. Communications

Subcommittee Meetings will be held on November 20 and 21, 2017 (Teaching & Learning, both 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. Reports of Subcommittees

Mrs. Lebo reviewed the Budget & Finance Subcommittee meeting held on November 13, 2017. Director of Business James Mullaney presented the FY2018 Staffing Reconciliation and 1st Quarter Budget Report. Budget & Finance Subcommittee

As there were no corrections, the meeting minutes for the November 13, 2017 Budget & Finance Subcommittee were approved as presented.

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The review of the Athletics Subcommittee meeting was deferred to the December 6, 2017 School Committee Meeting Agenda. Athletics Subcommittee

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Ms. Isola reviewed the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meetings held on November 13 and 14, 2017. The Middle and High School principals presented their School Improvement Plans; Mr. Segalla presented the Career & Technical Education Program Improvement Plan; and Dr. Hallett presented the English Learner Education Program Improvement Plan. All plans were approved. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

As there were no corrections, the meeting minutes for both the November 13 and November 14, 2017 Teaching & Learning Subcommittee were approved as presented.

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Executive Session was moved out of order and held as the first Agenda item. Executive Session

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