

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – February 7, 2018

-----

Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 7, 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. Paul Bregoli, 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; Ms. Christine Barrett, Mr. Michael Draicchio, Ms. Sara Dufour, Ms. Sarah Ginn, Mr. Daniel Gilbert, Dr. Beth Hallett, Mr. James Hennessy, Mr. James Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Ms. Maura Papile, Ms. Erin Perkins, Ms. Jacqueline Principi, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla; and Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox.

§

Mrs. Hubley made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeAmicis to approve the revised Regular Meeting minutes for January 24, 2018 as presented. On a voice vote, ayes have it.

Regular Meeting Minutes Approved 1.24.2018

§

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

Open Forum

§

Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report with *Inspire Quincy*, featuring the Unique Week at Point Webster Middle School, Middle School Wrestling, Junior Eastern District Concert Choir Festival Medalists from Central Middle School, Project 351 Ambassadors, Norfolk County Sheriff Michael Bellotti and the Thompson Family support of Substance Abuse Prevention, and the Rural Lodge of Masons support of PBIS.

Superintendent's Report

Broad Meadows Middle School Principal Dan Gilbert introduced the Project 351 Ambassadors present: Jacob Lustig from Broad Meadows and Brandon Pham from Point Webster. Amy Lien from Atlantic, Pablo Flores-Munoz from Central, and Doan Tran from Sterling are also Ambassadors who were unable to be present this evening. The Ambassadors recently completed their Project 351 Day of Service on January 28, where they and student Ambassadors from cities and towns all over Massachusetts performed community service.

Senior Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile recognized three School~Community Partners who support important Quincy Public Schools initiatives. The Rural Lodge of Masons has been a sponsor of the PBIS initiative from the beginning; Peter Thompson and Norfolk County Sheriff Michael Bellotti who have both supported the Substance Abuse Prevention.

Mayor Koch introduced Dr. Allan Yacubian, who has recently established a scholarship to benefit students from both Quincy and North Quincy High Schools. Mayor Koch said that Dr. Yacubian has been a generous donor over the years to both high schools and families in need. Dr. Yacubian said that the school system is wonderful and high performing and something to be proud of; he does not want discussion about Yakoo to detract from focus on curriculum and buildings. Dr. Yacubian said establishing the scholarships was the wish of his late brother Arthur Yacubian and recognizes students who have worked hard for their achievements. Mr. Bregoli noted that the scholarships are not related to Yakoo.

Dr. DeCristofaro announced that Kindergarten Registration will be held on Tuesday, March 6 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at all elementary school sites. Pre-Kindergarten Program Screenings will be held on Tuesday, March 6 and Tuesday, March 13 at the Snug Harbor Community School and Della Chiesa Early Childhood Center, by appointment. The Lunar New Year Festival will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at North Quincy High School sponsored by Quincy Asian Resources.

Dr. DeCristofaro noted that the Special Education Department has recently completed the Mid-Cycle Review with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and was found to be fully compliant with Special Education laws and regulations.

Upcoming Parent Academies include Family Nutrition Nights in collaboration with South Shore Hospital being held at: Point Webster Middle School on February 12, 2018; Bernazzani Elementary School on February 28, 2018; and Atlantic Middle School on March 6, 2018.

The 2017-2018 Grant Booklet was shared with School Committee, along with Home-School Connections from Quincy High School and Program Connections from Extended Education and the Quincy School-Community Partnership.

§

Mr. DeAmicis made a motion to approve the School Committee Meeting Calendar for 2018-2019 as presented. Mr. Andronico seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 6-0. Mayor Koch was not present for the vote.

Old Business

2018-2019 School Committee Meeting Calendar & School Year Calendar (Vote)

Mr. Bregoli made a motion to approve the School Year Calendar for 2018-2019 as presented. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 6-0. Mayor Koch was not present for the vote.

Director of Food Services Sara Dufour and Assistant Director of Food Services Sarah Ginn presented a program update. Ms. Dufour reviewed her background in nutrition, wellness, and restaurants and responsibilities under the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Food and Nutrition guidelines. Ms. Ginn was previously an executive chef and volunteered with after school cooking programs. One of the Food Services initiatives underway centers around creating a recipe database to meet the complex nutritional requirements and the audit demands.

New Business

Food Services Program Update

Ms. Dufour reviewed the five food group requirements: fruit, vegetables, grains, meat, and milk. There are weekly serving requirements to be met and there are subgroups within the food groups. There are financial reviews every three years, plus procurement and administrative audits every three years as well.

The Nutrislice app allows families to review breakfast and lunch menus online. In addition, information is shared with families through the Quincy Public Schools website Food Services pages.

Staff professional development involves trying new recipes and food samples. New equipment includes an automatic slicer and a new walk-in freezer at North Quincy High School. Two traveling salad bars have been purchased through the Farm to School grant and will be shared among the elementary schools.

The Food Services department is holding a logo design contest with the high school Graphic Design classes. The new logo will be used on menus, cafeteria signage, and staff aprons.

Looking forward, the staff are investigating new packing room equipment and working with the cafeteria managers on food tastings. The goal is to get students interested in different fruits and vegetables and grains. Studies show that engaging students through educational hands-on events is a means of reducing plate waste.

Mr. Gutro asked about the portable salad bars, these will be shared among the elementary schools in a six-week rotation. The middle and high schools have the ability to adapt their serving lines and training will be getting underway shortly to implement these.

Mrs. Hubley asked about availability of alternative meals when students don't like the hot lunch offered. Ms. Dufour said the alternative lunches are cold-pack lunches which are popular so they are piloting a program at Merrymount where families can pre-order these lunches.

Mrs. Hubley said that at the high school level, students sometimes complain about the ketchup since it is low-sodium. Ms. Dufour said that is definitely much lower than most commercially available ketchup. The idea is that the students who are

growing up with the new nutritional regulations will not have experienced these higher salt and sugar foods and become used to the tastes over time. Mrs. Hubley asked about chocolate milk and this is still available.

Mr. Bregoli asked if the elementary lunch containers are recyclable. Ms. Dufour said these are paper with a plastic lining and are recyclable, although we are not currently doing this. Ms. Dufour said that the plastic lining has to withstand being heated to 400 degrees and that new containers and equipment are being researched to accommodate the density of the foods now being served.

Mr. DeAmicis thanked Ms. Dufour and Ms. Ginn for their presentation and the food samples. He asked whether the detailed nutritional information was readily available for parents. Ms. Ginn said that the information is contained in the database for Food Services managers and is also available on the Nutrislice app.

Mr. DeAmicis asked about looking at food waste as a school system and the possibility of composting the food containers and utensils. Ms. Dufour said that Quincy Public Schools tries to avoid food waste by allowing choices and we have done some studies to prevent food waste. The school nurses have implemented share tables where students can “donate” unopened items such as fruit or vegetable packs or juice boxes. Mr. DeAmicis said it would be interesting to see this information by school and Ms. Dufour said this could be a project for an intern to look into.

§

Senior Director of Curriculum Madeline Roy and Wollaston Elementary School Principal James Hennessy presented on the Mentor Program, over 40 mentors are working to welcome and support the newest members of the Quincy Public Schools staff. New staff members attend a two-day orientation in August where they meet key members of the Superintendent’s Leadership and Principal Teams and are introduced to the Mentor Program. Under the DESE standards for licensure, participation in an induction and mentoring program are a requirement for attaining Professional Licensure.

New Business

Mentor Program Update

The Mentoring Team goals are to help new teachers improve their practice, learn professional responsibilities, and ultimately positively affect student learning. The mentoring process allows veteran teachers to reflect upon their own practices. The mentoring program helps unite the learning community as each individual works towards the goal of improving the quality of education. It also elevates the teaching profession and fosters a collaborative learning community for all educators.

The Mentor Planning Team is a cross-section of administrators and teachers from the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The Mentor Team meets four times over the course of the school year and features guest speakers and

opportunities for small group discussions with principals and program directors and time for mentor-protégé collaboration.

The Mentor program is the beneficiary of generous support from the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) which provides stipends for mentors and planning team members for their work above and beyond the school day. At the conclusion of the school year, there is a reflection based on exit surveys and the program evolves based on the requests of the teachers. Based on feedback, more technology training and supports have been added. DESE also requires a report be filed and it gives Quincy Public Schools feedback on other school systems responses.

Mrs. Lebo said this is a long-standing program and it is great to see how reflective and responsive the program has become.

Mr. Gutro asked whether the program extends beyond the first year and whether other staff members have mentoring programs. Ms. Roy said this program is for professional staff and that support staff have their own staff mentoring opportunities. Mr. Hennessy said this professional staff mentoring continues for three years, new teachers continue to meet with their mentors over this time but less formally.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Mr. Hennessy and Ms. Roy for their leadership, the mentoring is so beneficial for the Academic Classroom and Academic Program staff members.

§

Mr. Gutro made a motion to transfer \$38,000.00 from the FY2018 Transportation budget line to the FY2018 Repairs & Maintenance budget line. Mayor Koch seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0.

New Business

Budget Transfer Request

§

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the June 6-8, 2018 Overnight Travel (In-State) of Broad Meadows Middle School Grade 8 to Camp Wing, Duxbury, Massachusetts. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAmicis and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business

Overnight Travel (In-State)

§

There was no Additional Business.

Additional Business

§

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

Communications

Subcommittee Meetings: Teaching & Learning meetings 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 all School Committee and Subcommittee meeting minutes are posted online at [www.quincypublicschools.com](http://www.quincypublicschools.com).

Reports of  
Subcommittees

Mrs. Hubley reviewed the Budget & Finance Subcommittee meeting held on January 31, 2018. Director of Business Affairs James Mullaney presented the FY2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Report.

Budget & Finance  
Subcommittee

As there were no corrections, the meeting minutes for the January 31, 2018 Budget & Finance Subcommittee were approved as presented.

§

Mrs. Lebo reviewed the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meeting held on January 31, 2018. The meeting featured an update on the Elementary and Middle/High School Digital Learning Teams, preparations for the expansion of Computer-Based Testing to Grades 5 and 8 for this spring's MCAS Administration of ELA, Mathematics, and Science/Technology; and an update on elementary Science Curriculum, middle school Advanced Science programs, and Dual Enrollment for High School.

Teaching & Learning  
Subcommittee

Mrs. Lebo asked to have a presentation on the alignment of Technical standards with grade levels and curriculum areas as a follow up item.

As there were no corrections, the meeting minutes for the January 31, 2018 Teaching & Learning Subcommittee were approved as presented.

§

There was no Executive Session.

Executive Session

§

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

Adjournment