

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – March 7, 2018

Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 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, Chair.

Regular Meeting

Vice Chair Presiding

Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Mr. Michael DeMarco, 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 Police Chief Paul Keenan; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; Citywide Co-Presidents Scott Alessandro and Courtney Perdios; North Quincy High School Student Representative Luke Molloy.

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Mr. DeAmicis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for February 7, 2018 as presented. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting Minutes Approved 2.7.2018

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Citywide Parent Council Co-President Courtney Perdios announced that tonight's School Safety & Security presentation will also be given at the April 9, 2018 Citywide Parent Council meeting at 7:00 pm at Broad Meadows Middle School.

Open Forum

Citywide Parent Council Co-President Scott Alessandro noted that the North Quincy High School mascot discussion was prominent at the February 7, 2018 meeting with the recognition of Dr. Yacubian. At the March 12, 2018 Citywide Parent Council meeting, a discussion of Yakoo is planned.

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Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report with *Inspire Quincy*, featuring the Clifford Marshall Family Literacy Night, the Montclair Elementary School Chinese New Year celebration, Atherton Hough Kindergarten Parent-Child event, Girl Rising meeting with high school captains from the Swim & Diving teams, A Matter of Heart CPR & AED Certification training for Grade 8 students

Superintendent's Report

and families, Read Across America, and 8th Grade Fly Up Day for Band & Choral students.

Dr. Hallett introduced the Quincy Band Boosters and K&C Music, who were recognized as Quincy School~Community Partners. K&C Music has supported the Quincy Public Schools through repairs, facilitating rentals, professional advice, and donations of musical instruments (\$58,000 in 2017-2018 alone). The Quincy Band Boosters have provided percussion instruments, summer marching band camp opportunities, and scholarships to fund private lessons.

Upcoming Partnership events include the Credit for Life Fair for high school seniors scheduled for March 22 and the School~Community Partnership Breakfast on March 29, both at the Tirrell Room. Read Across America events were held at all elementary schools the week of February 6-March 2 in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Partners send guest readers to many of the schools.

Kindergarten Registration began on March 6, with over 300 students registering the first day at all eleven elementary schools.

Quincy Public Schools has been recognized by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for having a graduation rate well above the state's average, the highest level of all urban school districts in Massachusetts. Dr. DeCristofaro credited our high school principals and professional staff for their continuing focus on at-risk students and the goal of having no drop outs.

On March 14, student action in support of school safety is planned at all Quincy Public Schools middle and high schools. At the middle school level, students will have a moment of silence and planned activities and small group discussion. At the high school level, students will be allowed to leave the building at 10:00 am for the 17 minute observation on a voluntary basis. The high school principals are working with their student councils to plan meaningful observation. The Quincy Police Department will provide security for this outside event.

Mr. Gutro thanked Dr. DeCristofaro and the Quincy Public Schools administrators for the proactive response, giving students a voice to express their feelings is healthy and constructive.

Dr. DeCristofaro and Mrs. Lebo met with the Student Advisory Council to the School Committee. Student Council members are collaborating with the principals on planning the March 14 events. High school midterm exams were also discussed and student feedback is being sought. At the next meeting, SMART goals will be set for the 2018-2019 school year.

An updated schedule of Parent Academy events was shared with School Committee. The Family Nutrition Night events in partnership with South Shore Hospital were recently held at three school sites and an upcoming event will showcase the Construction Trades programs at Quincy High School.

A Project Lead the Way Grant for STEM Education was recently awarded to Quincy Public Schools, a total of \$150,000 for all five middle schools to fund Professional development, curriculum, and activity kits. Thanks to Science Curriculum Team Administrator Ed Smith and Senior Curriculum Director Madeline Roy for their leadership in securing this grant.

Dr. DeCristofaro concluded his report by noting that Course Selection Information Nights are being held on March 12 at North Quincy High School and March 13 at Quincy High School.

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As there was no Old Business, School Committee moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Old Business

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Dr. DeCristofaro presented an Overview of Safety & Security, along with Quincy Police Chief Keenan, Director of Safety & Security Michael Draicchio, and Senior Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile. Quincy Public Schools Safety & Security framework is built around the pillars of Prevention, Preparation, Response, and Recovery. Through the District Improvement Plan, multiple teams are involved with supporting the overall safety of the school system, including the School Committee, the Superintendent’s Leadership Team, the Elementary, Middle, and High School Principal Teams, the School~Community Partnership Team, the Student Support Services Teams, the Alternative Programs Teams, Student Placement Teams, Safety & Security Team, Transportation Administration, and Facilities/Maintenance Team.

New Business

Safety & Security Overview

Prevention is focused on avoiding occurrences; the Quincy School Committee Policy Section 5.2 sets the goal of “providing a safe, violence free and drug free place of learning for all students and staff.” Through a special appropriation in 2014-2015, Mayor Koch and City Council provided funding for the installation of access control devices to allow for keyless entry, video intercoms, visitor protocols, and identification badges that all work together to ensure that schools are safe and accessible to students, staff, families, and city department staff. All Quincy Public Schools classrooms have classroom door locks and all schools have surveillance technology that allows for monitoring the buildings’ exteriors and interior corridors.

Through collaboration with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, the newest school buildings Quincy High School, Central Middle School, and the under construction Southwest Quincy middle school have the newest in exterior door and window technology. Through the Accelerated Repair Program, Lincoln Hancock, Merrymount, North Quincy, Parker, and Wollaston all have new windows and doors. Beechwood Knoll will have new windows and doors installed

in Summer 2018. Montclair has new windows, funded through the City of Quincy prior to the establishment of the MSBA's Accelerated Repair Program.

Mr. Draicchio reviewed the collaboration between the Quincy Public Schools, Quincy Police Department, the City's Traffic, Parking, Alarm, and Lighting (TPAL) for signage, traffic and pedestrian signals, and the Department of Public Works (crosswalks repainted annually). The Transportation Administration Team meets monthly to ensure that bus maintenance and safety issues are addressed in a timely fashion. The Quincy Fire Department provides support for Fire Safety, inspecting all school buildings quarterly, ensuring that fire alarm systems are updated and functioning, Science Laboratory safety compliance, and providing Fire Safety Education for elementary school students.

The Quincy Public Schools Preparation (Planning, Practices, Evaluation) include Emergency Procedures and Emergency Safety Drills to reinforce the safety protocols with all school staff. Emergency Procedures for lockdown, evacuation, reverse evacuation, and modified lockdown are posted in all classrooms and offices. Emergency safety drills are completed at least twice per year and are unannounced to staff members, ensuring an accurate assessment of response time. The Quincy Police Department, Fire Department, and Brewster Ambulance all participate in these drills. A new comprehensive chart for responding to bomb threats was also developed in conjunction with the Quincy Police Department. Through a grant from Norfolk County District Attorney Michael Morrissey, 911 radios have been provided to all schools for direct emergency communication with the Quincy Police Department. Per School Committee Policy, Incident Reports are created to report threats of harm, self-harm, or other concerning behaviors.

The Quincy Public Schools Safety & Security Team meets monthly and has membership from many community partners, including the Quincy Public Schools Administrators, Assistant Principals, High School Deans, Security Staff, Quincy Police Department, Quincy Fire Department, Norfolk County District Attorney's Office, Norfolk County Sheriff's Office, MBTA Transit Police, Brewster Ambulance, the Department of Children & Families, Department of Youth Services, and Quincy Probation Department. Professional development for Security staff are provided by members of the Safety & Security Team, Student Support and Health Services Teams, and the Technology Planning & Training Team. Communication on safety and security issues is provided to Security Staff weekly and quarterly through the *Safety First* newsletter.

Quincy Police Chief Keenan said that there is consistent communication between himself and the Superintendent and Mr. Draicchio, the Quincy Police Department is glad to provide support for special events such as graduation, proms, and athletic events, in addition to daily support for Quincy Public Schools including the DARE officers, three School Resource Officers, forty-five Traffic Supervisors, direct

communication with dispatchers, Pre-Prom seminar, and community building programs such as Early Bird basketball.

Chief Keenan reviewed training initiatives the Quincy Police Department participates in, including School Active Shooter In-Service, School Safety Drills, De-Escalation and Safety Assessment Training, and ongoing training for autism disorder and mental health issues. In responding the critical incidents, the initial response protocol continues to evolve to focus on quelling the incident as soon as possible. SWAT training is held monthly and collaboration with Boston Police Department has been established. The Quincy Police Department has trained hostage negotiators, is part of a cooperative Police Department Network, trained K-9, a memorandum of understanding with the BPD Bomb Unit. Internet and cyber response threats are taken very seriously, threats are assessed and an incident determination will culminate in a home visit and references for mental health counseling. Incidents are handled thoroughly and professionally, without sensationalizing.

All of the School Response Plans are in the process of being updated, Quincy Police Departments have online access to Quincy Public Schools (and all city building) floor plans. School Response Drills are planned for weekends in all buildings to ensure familiarity with our facilities. Chief Keenan is confident that Quincy Public Schools is a safe learning environment, we are on the right track, with constant assessment for improvement.

Senior Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile presented on the Recovery phase, supporting students through traumatic events by responding to their needs, informing students and families, and building school climate. Quincy Public Schools Crisis Response is handled at the school site by established Crisis Teams (Principal, Assistant Principal, Guidance Counselors, Psychologist Nurse, Teachers). Information is disseminated carefully, and in a truthful and accurate way. It is important to respect the students and support the trust between students and adults. With social media, it is easy for misinformation to be spread and so a timely and accurate response is critical to countering that. Crisis teams will provide scripts for staff to talk with students, the goal is to provide a community based response.

Mrs. Papile emphasized that there are four psychological tasks that children and adolescents must accomplish for healthy coping: understanding, grieving, commemorating, and going on. We have to be open to what students and staff need in response to trauma, annual professional development for crisis team members brings in new approaches, refine supports and communication.

Mr. Gutro thanked all of the presenters for the daily efforts to keep students and staff safe. Mr. Gutro asked about special events during school hours, such as visitors for Kindergarten registration and voting. Voter access is done through dedicated entrances whenever possible and police officers are present; not all

schools are voting sites. For Kindergarten registration, visitors are admitted to the building and directed to a specific area to complete registration.

Mr. DeAmicis asked if there are multiple officers on duty during voting. Chief Keenan said the officers are assigned to the ballot boxes, and there are relief officers scheduled to ensure constant Quincy Police presence inside the building.

Mr. Gutro complimented the communication about incidents, although due to confidentiality, the explanations are vague. Students often know more details. Mr. Gutro asked for a report of incidents types at the school level. Dr. DeCristofaro said it is very difficult to communicate in a way that shares information and also protects student confidentiality. Often communication is sent out during the investigation phase and so details are vague.

Mr. Gutro asked about the security cameras, are they monitored in real time or recorded for evidence. Mr. Draicchio said the cameras are used for both purposes, most of the recorders have a 30 day capacity.

Mr. Bregoli noted that mental health issues have been a factor in many of the school violence issues nationwide. He asked Mrs. Papile whether there is adequate staffing in the Quincy Public Schools to address mental health issues. Mrs. Papile said emergency safety assessments are made through South Shore Mental Health not by Quincy Public Schools staff members. Mr. Bregoli is concerned about athletic events, referees are contracted employees and not screened by Quincy Public Schools. Dr. DeCristofaro said these are not easy questions; high school events have security staff on duty and the Athletic Director or game administrator are there to interact with the referees.

Mr. Bregoli brought up the issue of metal detectors, suggesting this is another tool to keep students safe, particularly at an after school event. Complimented Mr. Draicchio for all of his efforts, maybe there are additional supports to assist the security staff.

Mayor Koch thanked Superintendent DeCristofaro, the Superintendent's Leadership Team, and Chief Keenan. The City is focused on providing resources for student safety and there has to be a balance. At recent PTO meetings, parents expressed concerns. Mayor Koch suggested adding a spiritual aspect to the recovery part of the process and offered perspective about the big picture, in Massachusetts, there are more safeguards to keep guns from inappropriate owners, including background checks. Much progress has been made and there is always room for improvement

Mrs. Hubley asked about the ALICE program. Chief Keenan explained that ALICE has a component that teaches students about fighting back and prefers other approaches to student response in an incident.

Mr. Andronico noted that the 911 radios allow direct contact with Quincy Police Department and asked whether installing panic buttons in school offices has been explored. Chief Keenan said that meetings are underway with vendors to provide a mobile app that teachers and administrators that would be a direct 911 contact.

Mr. DeAmicis asked if the visitor protocols are reviewed regularly. Mr. Draicchio said that the protocols are reviewed annually and reinforced with staff during professional development. Mr. DeAmicis asked how school staff would be supported if an unwanted person was outside the building. Mr. Draicchio said that staff are trained to call 911 if concerned.

Mr. DeAmicis asked if a staff member forgot their identification, would they wear a visitor pass. Mr. Draicchio confirmed they would need to be admitted by office or security staff through the main door. Mr. Draicchio confirmed that both high schools have security staff on duty until at least 7:00 pm daily.

Mr. DeAmicis asked Chief Keenan about whether a School Resource Officer is considered a first responder. Chief Keenan confirmed that when they are on scene, their training is to try to mitigate the threat and call for assistance.

Mr. DeAmicis asked Mrs. Papile if there was communication or dialogue between students and administrators about whether they feel safe during the school day and after school activities. Mrs. Papile said that the PBIS interventions support the positive school culture and emphasize safety, all the while teaching the pro-social skills about safety. Social emotional curriculum at all levels involves conflict resolution, helping to build coping skills and strategies.

Mr. DeAmicis asked about verbal threats and the protocols for reporting and reacting. Mrs. Papile said that teachers are trained by guidance staff to make an immediate report of any concern, for example, a student's writing, online posts, or behaviors. The concern will be investigated, a team approach with the Quincy Police Department, South Shore Mental Health, and the student's parents.

Mr. Gutro asked about student use of social media during a crisis situation. Dr. DeCristofaro said that there is a limited amount that can be done to control student use of social media. During an incident, it seems like it would be more helpful than not as it could assist first responders.

Mr. Bregoli noted that School Committee members are also required to go through proper visitor protocol to enter a school building.

Mrs. Lebo thanked the presenters, this presentation should be very reassuring to parents and staff. The Quincy Police Department is very responsive.

Mrs. Lebo asked about Communication, would like to see more emphasis on timeliness and also communication to School Committee. Mrs. Lebo referred to

Facilities & Security Subcommittee reporting of previous incidents, metal detectors, and a review of the ALICE protocol.

Mrs. Lebo asked how the School Resource Officer job description differs from a regular Patrol Officer. Chief Keenan said that the main purpose is for the School Resource Officers to develop relationships with students, so that students will feel comfortable turning them for assistance. School Resource Officers can and do mitigate many problems at an early stage. Mrs. Lebo asked about evaluation of the School Resource Officers. Chief Keenan said this is a joint process between the himself, Lt. Glynn, and the Superintendent.

Mrs. Lebo noted that House Bill 3610, sponsored by Representative Marjorie Decker would strengthen the preventions for firearm access for dangerous individuals.

Mrs. Lebo noted that Section 5 of the Policy Book should be reviewed and updated. Copies of Section 5 were provided to each School Committee member.

Mrs. Lebo is concerned about the muddy conditions on the side of Furnace Brook Parkway at Bernazzani, which is a state road. The Department of Conservation and Recreation said that stones would be installed but nothing has been done to date. Mrs. Lebo asked Mayor Koch if he can assist since this is a safety issue for parents and students.

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Director of Business James Mullaney presented that due to the damage from the January 4, 2018 storm, Quincy Public Schools has been working with Arbella Insurance to determine the extent of the damage to the mini-bus fleet. Arbella's conclusion is that all vehicles are a total loss and preliminary figures indicate payments will be made to Quincy Public Schools totaling \$900,000.00 to purchase replacement vehicles. In order to begin the purchasing process, a temporary transfer of funds is needed. Mr. Mullaney is recommending transferring funds from the Special Education Professional Salaries line to the Transportation & Rental Vehicles Account. As funds are received from Arbella, they will be deposited in this account and then a request will be made to transfer the funds back to the Special Education Professional Salaries line.

New Business

Temporary Budget Transfer Request

Mrs. Hubley made a motion for a \$900,000.00 temporary transfer of funds from the Special Education Salaries to the Transportation budget line.

On the motion, Mr. Gutro asked for documentation for the insurance settlement. Mr. Mullaney said once School Committee approves the temporary fund transfer, the settlement document will be created for signature and shared with School Committee. Mr. Gutro asked for and received confirmation that no vehicles were damaged in the March 2 storm.

Mrs. Hubley asked when the new mini-buses be available for student transportation. Mr. Mullaney said nine are currently available and the other thirteen are still to be manufactured, so delivery may take up to five months.

Mr. Andronico noted that the first payment will be \$450,000 when the settlement is signed and asked what the payment schedule would be for the remainder. Mr. Mullaney said the payments will be made as vehicles are taken out of service and turned over to Arbella’s Recovery Unit.

Mr. Bregoli seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Mr. Mulvey, Mr. Draicchio, Mr. Kevin Segalla, and Mr. Mullaney for their work on this process with Arbella.

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Mayor Koch made a motion to accept the gift of \$8,500.00 from Blue Cross Blue Shield and requested a letter of thanks be sent. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 7-0.

New Business
Gift

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Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the 2018 Out of the Country Travel of Quincy High School to France, Monaco, and Italy. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAmicis and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
Out of the Country
Travel

Mr. Andronico made a motion to approve the May 21-23, 2018 Overnight Travel (In-State) of Sterling Middle School Grade 7 to Camp Wing, Duxbury, Massachusetts. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
Overnight Travel
(In-State)

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Mr. DeAmicis made a motion to approve the April 27-29, 2018 Out of State Travel (Overnight) of Quincy High School Academic Decathlon Team to Washington, DC. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
Out of State Travel
(Overnight)

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There was no Additional Business.

Additional Business

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Upcoming meetings were announced: Regular Meetings on March 21, 2018 and April 11, 2018 at the Coddington Building at 6:30 pm.

Communications

Subcommittee Meetings: Teaching & Learning on March 28 at 6:00 pm. On March 14, 2018, the Facilities & Security Subcommittee will meet at 6:00 pm and the Athletics & Wellness Subcommittee will meet at 6:30 pm. On April 25, the Quarterly Budget & Finance Subcommittee will be held at 6:00 pm, followed by Teaching & Learning Subcommittee at 6:15 pm.

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

Reports of
Subcommittees

Mrs. Lebo reviewed the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meeting held on February 28, 2018. Curriculum & Assessment Management Team members presented on the Close Reading, Google Classroom, and Differentiation in Math Classroom initiatives.

Teaching & Learning
Subcommittee

The meeting minutes for the February 28, 2018 Teaching & Learning Subcommittee were approved as amended.

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There was no Executive Session.

Executive Session

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Mr. DeAmicis made a motion to adjourn for the evening at 9:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andronico and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment