

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – May 2, 2018

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 2, 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 (arrived at 6:45 pm), Mr. Paul Bregoli, Mr. James DeAmicis, 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. Lori Broughton, Mr. Michael Connor, Mr. Michael Draicchio, Ms. Jill Greene, Dr. Beth Hallett, Ms. Julie Krieger, Ms. Rebecca McInnis, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Ms. Jennifer O'Brien, Mr. Kenneth Panaro, Ms. Maura Papile, Ms. Erin Perkins, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mr. Edward Smith, Mr. Lawrence Taglieri; Quincy Police Chief Paul Keenan; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; Citywide Parent Council Co-President Courtney Perdios; and Quincy High School Student Representative Timothy Nguyen.

Mr. Douglas Gutro was absent.

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Mr. DeAmicis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for April 11, 2018 as presented. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting Minutes Approved 4.11.2018

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As there was no one who 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 by introducing Quincy Police Department Chief Paul Keenan. Chief Keenan presented a gift of \$7,000.00 to the Quincy Public Schools CARES program and thanked Detective Barkas, Officer White and his wife Andrea White for organizing the bowling night fundraising event. Chief Keenan then introduced the new DARE Officer Melanie Reeves, a lifelong Quincy resident, veteran, and Quincy Police Department member for the past 15 years. Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Chief Keenan for his assistance in the recent Safety & Security presentations for the Citywide Parent Council, City

Superintendent's Report

Council Public Safety Subcommittee, and the Quincy Education Association representative council.

Quincy High School Principal Lawrence Taglieri and Interim Science Department Chair Julie Krieger introduced the winners from the school’s recent Science Fair: *Rachel Shen* (1st place), *Alexander Ireland* (2nd place), and *Marsha Germain, Amanda Morris, Hannah Murphy* (3rd place). North Quincy High School Assistant Principal Michael Connor and Science Department Chair Kenneth Panaro introduced the Science Fair winners: *Kayli Wu* (1st place), *Twuyen Tran* (2nd place), and *Jenny Zheng* (3rd place).

After each student described their project for School Committee, Mr. DeAmicis complimented the projects and their thoughtful approach to important problems that affect people worldwide. Mrs. Lebo reiterated how impressive these students are, their work is amazing and we are so proud of them all. Dr. DeCristofaro thanked all of the students who participated in the Science Fair and the principals, assistant principals, teachers, and parents, who supported the students.

Upcoming Quincy Public Schools Events: Cleaner Greener, May 5; Middle School Choral Festival, May 24; a middle school Parent Academy, May 15 in partnership with the Thomas Crane Public Library; the Quincy Retired Teachers Association Scholarship Event, May 15 at Central Middle School; Welcome to Kindergarten Parent Academy on May 22; the Community Service Learning Celebration, May 30; the Girl Rising Community Celebration, May 30; the Student Athlete Summit, June 1; the Grade 5 Student Leadership event on June 4; and the Retirement Luncheon on June 7. The final events of the year are the high school Graduations on June 11 and 12.

The National Honor Society Inductions for Juniors was held at Quincy High School on April 24 and is scheduled for June 7 at North Quincy High School. Graduating seniors in the National Honor Society will be recognized at the May 16 School Committee meeting at Central Middle School.

CVTE Advisory Board Meetings will be held on May 17 at Quincy High School and May 24 at North Quincy High School. The CTE Advisory Boards will present at the June 13 School Committee meeting.

Dr. DeCristofaro shared a revised Budget Timeline with School Committee. Mayor Koch will present an overview of the FY2019 City of Quincy Budget at the May 16, 2018 School Committee meeting, followed by a draft Quincy Public Schools budget presentation. The Budget & Finance Subcommittee will meet on Monday, May 21 and hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 30.

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Mr. Bregoli reviewed that there is a proposed change to the Policy Book Section 2.4.11 Public Participation in School Committee Meetings. The current language reads:

Old Business

Policy Book Section  
2.4.11 (Vote)

Open Forum: *An opportunity for community input regarding the Quincy Public Schools. After giving his or her name and address, each speaker may make a presentation of no more than four minutes to the School Committee. An individual may not exchange their time or yield to others.*

and the proposed new language reads:

Open Forum: *An opportunity for community input regarding the Quincy Public Schools. Community in this context is defined as a resident of the City of Quincy, a parent of a student who attends the Quincy Public Schools, or an employee of the Quincy Public Schools. Non-community persons not permitted to speak at Open Forum may submit written statements to the School Committee. After giving his or her name and address, each speaker may make a presentation of no more than four minutes to the School Committee. An individual may not exchange their time or yield to others.*

Mr. Bregoli made a motion to accept the amended language defining Open Forum in Policy Book Section 2.4.11 as presented.

By reference, section 2.4.5 School Committee Agenda will also be updated to reflect this change.

On the motion, Mrs. Lebo said this is a solution to a problem that doesn't exist, narrows the definition too much and would exclude many categories of people. Mrs. Lebo feels that there is no public accountability for written communication, which is private. When someone speaks at Open Forum, it raises issues that the public may be interested in.

Mayor Koch is supporting the motion, feels that School Committee is accountable to the residents of Quincy.

Mr. Andronico is concerned that the wording doesn't include property owners in Quincy who may not be residents, will vote to support tonight, but would like to further amend in the fall.

Mayor Koch seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it, 4-2. Mr. DeAmicis and Mrs. Lebo voted NO. Mr. Gutro was absent.

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Executive Director of Career & Technical Education Keith Segalla and Quincy High School Department Chair Rebecca McInnis presented an overview of the 22 Career Vocational and Technical Education programs in the Quincy Public Schools. Six programs (Automotive Technology, Culinary Arts, Engineering Technology, Information Support Services and Networking, Visual Design and Communications, and Metal Fabrication) are all programs that have national certification and meet industry standards beyond the Massachusetts DESE CVTE Program Frameworks. In addition, students have the opportunity to earn credentials that support students in their professional development, such as OSHA

New Business  
Career &  
Community Partners

certification and Certificates of Occupational Proficiency. Articulation agreements are in place with several local colleges and universities, allowing students to receive credit for high school coursework.

The Career & Technical Education programs are supported by the greater Quincy community through the Program and General Advisory Teams, exposure to career experiences through internships and paid positions, mock interviews, job shadowing, safety training, internships, site visitations, and clinical placements. Through video and in-person presentations by community business partners and CTE students, School Committee learned about internships, site visitations, summer co-ops, apprenticeships, and clinical placements.

Mrs. Lebo thanked the presenters, very impressive to see the students' achievements. It is a joy to be a CTE teacher, because you get to teach what you love and the business partners are also clearly enjoying these opportunities.

Mayor Koch thanked the entire CTE team, the relationships with the partners is so key to the success of the students and the program.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked the presenters, the kindness and consideration highlighted here are part of the student success.

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Senior Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile and Supervisors of Attendance Jenn O'Brien and Jill Greene presented on their role in student success in the Quincy Public Schools. (Matt Ramponi is the third member of the team, but was unavailable due to coaching Tennis at North Quincy High School.) The Supervisors of Attendance have dual roles and many responsibilities: (1) enforcing the Massachusetts laws pertaining to school attendance and residency and (2) support students and families struggling with regular attendance, providing early interventions for high-risk students. The Supervisors of Attendance each work closely with multiple schools, the school administrators, and families.

New Business  
Supervisors of Attendance

By law, all students between the ages of 6 and 16 are required to attend school daily, on time, and obey all school rules. Quincy Public Schools has long had a policy to address truancy, with formal interventions first implemented in 1998. In 2012, the state began requiring all school districts to have Truancy Prevention Programs in place. Through the Family Assistance Conference process, the Supervisors of Attendance meet with families, school staff, and bring in services as needed; in 2016-2017, 39 Family Resource Referrals were made.

In terms of residency, the Supervisors of Attendance reinforce the law that students attend school in the town where they reside. There are complicating factors including stability of housing and shared custody for divorced parents.

The goal is to verify residency during the registration process and further verification for address changes (reported or not) in collaboration with the school sites and Central Registration. A site-based protocol has been developed to identify issues and outline steps for verification and resolution.

If acceptable proofs of residency cannot be produced, home visits will be completed. In the 2016-2017 school year, 574 students were subject to residency checks, with 16 students not allowed to register due to residency concerns and 14 students discharged for non-residency. Nighttime and early morning checks are very effective interventions; the Quincy Police Department assists with these.

Mr. Bregoli said that in his time on School Committee, there has been a lot of positive growth in this area. Mr. Bregoli asked about high school students who move, is there a provision for students to finish their education in Quincy. Mrs. Papile said that seniors in good standing may finish high school in Quincy with the Superintendent's permission (per School Committee Policy).

Mr. Bregoli asked about limits on tardiness per term. Ms. Papile said that four unexcused absences in a term is all that is allowed under the Attendance Policy and a letter is required to be sent out. There is some latitude for judgement at the school site based on circumstances.

Mrs. Lebo said that the law calls for interventions if a student misses 14 half-days in a six month period, so that would be an example of extreme tardiness.

Mrs. Lebo asked if a student was absent a number of times, even if there were illnesses, are we required to do something about this. Ms. Greene said this is where the site relationships are important, the schools will know if there are family or health issues. There is a lot of discretion at the school and district level before legal involvement is required.

Ms. O'Brien said the Attendance Hearings are very instrumental in getting families to understand that the importance of getting their students to school regularly and on time. Many issues are resolved at the first meeting and the caseload fluctuates. Each Supervisor of Attendance has about 300 cases but families will move in and out over the course of the year.

Mrs. Lebo said with that caseload, the number of actual referrals outside is impressively low.

Mrs. Lebo asked if there is any follow up on discharged students and Ms. Papile said we follow the student until a request for records is received from the new school system.

Mayor Koch asked if there is a common denominator in the families who try to remain at the schools. Ms. O'Brien said that often the students want to stay with their friends even though their families have moved.

Dr. DeCristofaro said that the Supervisors of Attendance have a great connection to their school sites and put in an impressive number of hours attending to the details to resolve issues for our at-risk families.

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Mrs. Lebo referred the North Quincy High School Mascot to the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee.

New Business

NQHS Mascot

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Mrs. Lebo referred Bishop Field Update to the Athletics & Wellness Subcommittee.

New Business

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Mrs. Lebo requested that the NQHS Principal and Athletic Director appear at an upcoming Athletic & Wellness to discuss joining the South Shore League for 2019-2020.

Bishop Field Update

Additional Business

Mr. Bregoli requested that New Middle School name appear on next agenda for referral to Policy Subcommittee

These items will appear on the May 16, 2018 School Committee meeting agenda for referral to the requested subcommittees.

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Upcoming meetings were announced: Regular Meetings on May 16, 2018 at Central Middle School and June 13, 2018 at the Coddington Building, both at 6:30 pm.

Communications

Subcommittee Meetings: On May 21, 2018, the FY2019 Budget meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm, followed by the Special Education Subcommittee at 6:30 pm. On May 30, 2018, the FY2019 Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for 6:00 pm, followed by the Athletics & Wellness Subcommittee at 6:15 pm and Facilities, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee at 6:45 pm.

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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 Quarterly Budget & Finance Subcommittee meeting that was held on April 25, 2018. Director of Business James Mullaney presented a reconciliation of the FY2018 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, which ended on March 31, 2018. There is an anticipated deficit for Special Education tuition funding and associated transportation, which will be made up through anticipated increases in Circuit Breaker funding.

Budget & Finance Subcommittee

As there were no corrections, the minutes of the April 25, 2018 Budget & Finance Subcommittee were approved as presented.

Mrs. Lebo reviewed the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meeting held on April 25, 2018. Dr. DeCristofaro presented the Opportunities & Challenges overview of school enrollment trends, including class size.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

As there were no corrections, the minutes of the April 25, 2018 Teaching & Learning Subcommittee were approved as presented.

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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 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andronico and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment