

QUINCY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY BUDGET & FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ~ May 21, 2018

A meeting of the Budget & Finance Subcommittee was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the Coddington Building. Present were Mr. Anthony Andronico, Mr. Paul Bregoli, Mr. Douglas Gutro, Mrs. Emily Lebo, and Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, Chair. Also attending were Superintendent DeCristofaro, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Ms. Catherine Carey, Ms. Julie Graham, Dr. Beth Hallett, Mr. Richard Kelley, Mr. James Mullaney, Ms. Maura Papile, Ms. Erin Perkins, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla; Mr. Scott Alessandro, Citywide Parent Council Co-President; and Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk.

Director of Business James Mullaney presented an overview of the grants that are part of funding the Quincy Public Schools for staffing/class size, professional development, and parent engagement. These entitlement grants are based on formulas set forth by federal or state law/regulation and total \$5.279 million, including Title I (early literacy and math) for \$1.987 million; Title IIA (teacher quality) for \$330,000; Title III for English Language Acquisition for \$275,000; Special Education/IDEA for \$2.4 million. Funding is received in January, but the fiscal year budget is based on an assumption of level funding from year to year.

Mrs. Lebo asked about Title I and Title II for private schools; any private elementary schools in Quincy are eligible to share in professional development (Quincy Catholic Academy, Noble Academy)

Mrs. Lebo asked if these are special professional development opportunities and Mr. Mullaney clarified that the private school teachers are invited to all scheduled professional development opportunities.

Mrs. Hubley then opened up discussion on the FY2019 Budget.

Mrs. Lebo asked about the difference in types of Aides in the budget, there are classroom paraprofessionals and administrative aides in different categories. There are also substitute paraprofessionals for Special Education. Mrs. Lebo asked about Quincy Evening High School, this is completely grant funded. Mrs. Lebo asked about the increase in the coaches line, there is an anticipated increase because of growing interest in certain sports, coop teams may be divided.

Mr. Bregoli noted that there is no expansion of academic courses or programs in this level service budget. Mr. Mullaney said there are 8.9 positions: 3.0 digital literacy, 1.7 ELL, 3.5 Special Education, and 0.7 CTE. Mr. Bregoli asked about Civics and Ms. Roy clarified that this is an instructional shift, Grade 8 US History 1 will become Civics.

Mr. Gutro supports the Digital Learning positions and looks forward to hearing about the program rollout. Mr. Gutro is looking for more insight into the Special Education tuition costs. Mr. Gutro asked

about the funds transferred from Special Education salaries to cover the acquisition of new buses. The the first 50% of the insurance settlement has been received and Mr. Mullaney is anticipating requesting the funds transferred back at the June 13 School Committee meeting.

Mr. Gutro asked about a new location for the buses to be stored, Dr. DeCristofaro said there has been no decisions about a new location for the buses. For now, the buses will be moved as needed for weather. Mr. Gutro asked if the insurance premiums will rise due to this year's claim. Mr. Mullaney said that it is possible and any difference could be funded through the Transportation revolving account.

Mr. Andronico noted that 6.3 Special Education positions have been added in the last three years, but no Special Education paraprofessionals have been added. Dr. DeCristofaro said given the current requirements for student IEPs, classroom and 1-on-1 aides are currently adequately staffed. These are reconciled quarterly along with the professional staffing and reviewed with School Committee.

Mr. Gutro reiterated Mr. Alessandro's request to consider a position to collect and analyze data. Dr. DeCristofaro said that this work is done by the SLT within the parameters of their responsibilities. Dr. DeCristofaro would not prioritize this over student-facing staff, could consider something collaborative at the city level, perhaps a staff member that could be utilized by multiple city departments. Mr. Gutro will research similar positions in other local cities.

Mrs. Lebo said that there is data that School Committee does not see that might inform their work, so would like to see the data sets that are available. Dr. DeCristofaro said that School Committee can look at the data posted on the DESE website and suggest areas for follow up.

Mr. Gutro said that he supports the substitute teacher pay raise. Mrs. Lebo is concerned that substitutes may not accept long-term assignments at the same daily rate.

Mrs. Lebo made a motion to move the FY2019 Quincy Public Schools Budget to the School Committee Public Hearing on May 30, 2018. Mr. Bregoli seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mr. Bregoli made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm. Mr. Andronico seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.