

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – September 13, 2017

Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at the Coddington Building at 6:30 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, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, and Mr. Paul Bregoli, Vice Chair.

Regular Meeting
Vice Chair Presiding

Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Mr. Michael Draicchio, Dr. John Franceschini, Dr. Beth Hallett, Ms. Courtney Mitchell, Mr. James Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Mrs. Maura Papile, Mrs. Erin Perkins, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla, City Solicitor James Timmins; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; Citywide Parents Council Co-President Scott Alessandro; Sterling Building Committee member Kristin Perry; and North Quincy High School Student Representative Luke Molloy.

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There was a moment of silence in memory of Steve Moynihan, former Quincy Public Schools Business Director for 23 years and Barbara Lawson, a secretary for 32 years in the Building department and print shop.

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Mrs. Hubley made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeAmicis to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for June 14, 2017. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting
Minutes Approved
6.14.2017

Mr. DeAmicis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley to approve the Special Meeting minutes for August 22, 2017. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Special Meeting
Minutes Approved
8.22.2017

Mrs. Hubley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Isola to approve the Special Organizational Meeting minutes for September 6, 2017. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Special Organizational
Meeting Minutes
Approved 9.6.2017

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Mr. Scott Alessandro, Citywide Parent Council Co-President, announced the monthly meeting will be held on Monday, September 18 at 7:00 pm at Broad Meadows Middle School. On October 16, Citywide will be hosting a School Committee Candidates Night at Central Middle School at 6:30 pm. Email pto.citywide@gmail.com to submit questions for the candidates.

Open Forum

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Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report with the Inspire Quincy video, featuring highlights from the Summer Scene programs at Snug Harbor, Della Chiesa Early Childhood Center, Quincy High School, Bridge to Reading and Farm to School at Clifford Marshall. Scenes from the New Professional Staff Orientation, Backpack Distribution events, and interviews with Fall Athletics Team Captains from both high schools were shared.

Superintendent's
Report

The New Professional Staff Orientation was held on August 30 and 31, for over 30 participants. Thanks to Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey and the Human Resources staff for planning the event. On September 7 and 8, donated backpacks and school supplies were distributed at Lincoln Hancock, Clifford Marshall, Montclair, Parker, and Snug Harbor.

Mr. Segalla reviewed upcoming Quincy School~Community Partnership events, including the City of Presidents 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, September 24, 2017. Sponsored by the Mayor's Office, proceeds from the event benefit Quincy Public Schools Health and Wellness programs. The 3rd Annual Welcome Back Reception will be held September 28 at the Common Market.

Recent donations of furniture and equipment from School~Community partners include the Quincy College donation of 165 desk chairs being used at Atlantic, Broad Meadows, and Point Webster and the Boston Scientific donations of furniture, technology, and food service equipment being used at all school sites.

Dr. DeCristofaro congratulated Curriculum Director Beth Hallett, who earned her Ed.D. in August. Dr. Hallett announced that the 20th Annual ArtsFest will be held on Saturday, September 16 and Sunday, September 17 at Adams Field. Over 200 Quincy Public Schools students have submitted entries and murals created by the high school Art Clubs will be on display. Thanks to all Quincy Public Schools Art teachers for their collaboration.

Dr. DeCristofaro noted that Parent Academy events are planned throughout the school year, updated dates will be shared as the dates are finalized. Through the support of the Quincy Public Schools Budget and grant funding, over 100 teachers participated in Summer Professional Development.

The City of Quincy Public Buildings department oversaw the successful completion of many summer projects that affected all of our school buildings. Thanks to Commissioner Paul Hines, Directors Walter MacDonald and Kevin Murphy for their efforts in overseeing these projects. MSBA Boiler Replacement projects at Atherton Hough, Beechwood Knoll, Merrymount, and Wollaston are about a month away from final completion, with remaining work to be done during off hours as much as possible.

The annual School Committee Organizational Meeting was held on September 6, 2017, emphasizing the connection between the School Committee and the District Improvement Plan, through review of Program and School Improvement Plans, monitoring new and continuing initiatives at Subcommittee meetings.

Dr. DeCristofaro noted that preliminary enrollment is up 2% over last year. At the October 11 meeting, the official October 1 enrollment submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will be reviewed, including class sizes. In mid-year, the Opportunities and Challenges presentation will explore facilities needs for the next school year.

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There was no Old Business on the Agenda.

Old Business

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City Solicitor and Building Committee Chair James Timmins introduced Owner’s Project Manager Director Tom Kerwin from PCA360. This summer, the hard work of planning at the school site has been realized and the school successfully welcomed back the staff and students with the selective demolition completed and the school site secured. Mr. Kerwin introduced Ken Johnson, VP at Bond Brothers and Project Manager Brian Laroche from PCA360. Mr. Laroche then presented an update on the project status. Over the summer, good progress has been made in terms of schedule and budget; some of the more challenging aspects of the project are completed, including very deep excavation, including blasting and removing of rock and granite ledge in a neighborhood with homes in close proximity.

New Business

New Middle School Project Update

In terms of schedule, selective demolition is complete: the gymnasium, locker rooms, and a section of classrooms were removed in July. Prior to the start of school, parking for staff was established on Roberts Street, along with a new basketball court. A new path has been created for students and staff to walk up to the front of the school on Granite Street from Roberts Street. Air conditioners have been installed in classroom windows facing the construction site. From September and December, the site preparation, utility installation, and foundation construction will be completed. Beginning in January, the construction of the building envelope will begin.

Mr. Laroche shared architectural renderings created by Ai3 Architects. On the Granite Street side, the building is two stories and on the Roberts Street side, the building is three stories. Grade 5 will have a dedicated entrance and share an academic wing with Grade 6 on the second floor of the building. Grades 7 and 8 will be on the top floor, along with the Library/Media Center.

Mrs. Lebo complimented the project team, the building design is impressive and different from the Central building.

Mrs. Mahoney asked about opportunities for union labor and Quincy residents working on the project. Mr. Kerwin said that all major trades have been procured at this time through the Public Building process. Mr. LaRoche will follow up with figures. Mrs. Mahoney also asked if there might be opportunity for Career & Technical Education students to observe and/or participate in the construction. Dr. DeCristofaro said this will definitely happen over the course of the construction. Mr. Laroche said there is also a lot of opportunity for STEM learning for the Sterling Middle School students.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Bond, PCA 360, and Ai3, extraordinary partners in this building project. He also thanked Dr. Franceschini and Ms. Mitchell for their leadership in planning for the demolition phase and getting reading for the new school year.

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Dr. DeCristofaro reviewed that in the 2017-2018 school year, there are over twenty new and continuing initiatives across Curriculum and Operational teams.

New Business

2017-1018 Initiatives Update

Dr. Hallett presented on Year 3 of Dual Enrollment: Quincy High School and North Quincy High School staff have aligned with Quincy College to issue credits for successful completion of coursework. Seventeen courses are being offered, including Honors Chemistry and Physics at Quincy High School. Information packets will be mailed to eligible students. Parent information will be available at the North Quincy High School Back to School Night on September 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm and at Quincy High School on October 5 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

Ms. Isola asked if we have heard from students that the credits are being accepted at colleges and universities and Dr. Hallett said we have heard mostly positive feedback about private colleges; the credits are accepted at any school in the University of Massachusetts system. Mr. Malloy asked about the deadline for enrollment and Dr. Hallett said it should be around the end of October.

Senior Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile shared the Substance Use Education & Prevention Timeline, outlining all of the programming for our elementary, middle, and high school students. Support for the programming is provided by a \$28,000 donation from the Thompson Family; Mayor Koch and the Substance Use Task Force; Norfolk County District Attorney Michael Morrissey; and Norfolk County Sheriff Michael Bellotti. The Quincy Public Schools programming is uniquely proactive, focused on specific needs of the students and community and supported through PBIS and Wellness initiatives at each school. On September 5, all Student Support teams met together to review goals, all are focused on wellness, prevention, and student leadership. At Freshman Orientation, mentoring programs began and the first meeting of the Mayor’s Task Force took place that day as well. On Monday, Dr. DeCristofaro and Mrs. Papile met with Quincy Police Chief Keenan, Lt. Glynn, and the DARE officers to discuss

the changes in marijuana status due to recent legalization. On September 25, Blue Cross and Children's Hospital is sponsoring professional development from the CESAR program to plan out Science-based curriculum on brain function and addiction. Large group professional development allows for staff to bring back curriculum and programming to their school site and personalize for their students' particular needs. Knowing that peer leadership is critical to consistent messaging, all middle schools will have Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) chapters beginning this year.

Mrs. Lebo was impressed with the range of programming and asked about the CESAR program; Mrs. Papile said the funding for this professional development is being provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield in partnership with the Mayor's Office.

Mrs. Hubley asked about DOVE peer leadership, noting that a program at Quincy High School is planned. Mrs. Papile said DOVE has met with all middle school health teachers and was at North Quincy High School last spring, working with students on developing and sustaining healthy relationships.

Director of Special Education Erin Perkins updated on the Principals Path initiative. This year, Bernazzani, Beechwood Knoll, Lincoln Hancock, Clifford Marshall, Snug Harbor, Squantum, Wollaston, Broad Meadows, Central, and Sterling will all collaborate on expanding opportunities for student achievement under the Principals Path umbrella. Atherton Hough, Parker, Point Webster, and Quincy High School will join this initiative, design teams are being formed at each site to begin the process.

Senior Curriculum Director Madeline Roy updated on the Advanced Pathways initiative, which is focused on strengthening the vertical alignment in content areas for Grades 6 through 12. Through the development of these pathways, it is emphasized that middle and high school students may become eligible for advanced work at any point in their educational career. The Advanced Science pathway at the middle schools is being rolled out for Grades 6 and 7 this year. Differentiated strategies and updated placement tools for middle school to high school transition have been developed. Summer work created a year-long guide for teachers to use in advanced courses and as enrichment for any student. Honors and Advanced Biology is now offered to Grade 9 students at both high schools. The Grade 9 Life and Physical Science curriculum has been updated to better prepare students for Biology in Grade 10.

Ms. Roy also spoke about the Girl Rising initiative, which is continuing to be expanded as Atlantic and Central took part last spring in the project that originally began at Sterling Middle School. The initiative team is working with the Girl Rising International organization, looking to build a vertical connection with student mentors at both high schools and also would like to create a community symposium.

Mr. Molloy asked if the goal of the Advanced Science Pathway initiative is for all students to take Biology in Grade 9. Ms. Roy said the ultimate goal is to increase the participation in Advanced Placement classes for Grades 11 and 12 students; not all students will have the pre-requisite knowledge to take Biology in Grade 9.

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Mrs. Lebo made a motion to accept the Gifts of Furniture and Technology from Boston Scientific and Quincy College and to send letters of thanks. Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
Gift

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There was no Additional Business.

Additional Business

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Upcoming meetings were announced: September 27, 2017 and October 11, 2017, both at the Coddington Building at 6:30 p.m. and October 25, 2017 at Point Webster Middle School at 6:30 p.m..

Communications

Subcommittee Meetings will be held on October 4, 2017 (Teaching & Learning at 5:00 p.m. and Policy at 6:00 p.m.); October 18, 2017 (Special Education); October 19, 2017 (Budget & Finance at 5:00 p.m. and Facilities & Security at 5:30 p.m.); and October 24, 2017 (Teaching & Learning at 5:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Hubley noted that the proposed November 1 and 2 Teaching & Learning Subcommittee dates would need revision as these conflict with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees conference.

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Mr. Bregoli noted that all School Committee and Subcommittee meeting minutes are posted online at www.quincypublicschools.com. There were no Subcommittee Meetings for review on the Agenda.

Reports of
Subcommittees

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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 7:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Isola and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment