

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – September 27, 2017

Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 27, 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; Mrs. Rita Bailey, Mr. Michael Draicchio, Dr. Beth Hallett, Mr. Kevin Mahoney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Mr. Jean-Jacques Niamkey, Mrs. Maura Papile, Mrs. Erin Perkins, Mrs. Caitlin Plaskisovitis, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mr. Robert Shaw, Mr. Edward Smith, Georgina Sullivan, Mr. Lawrence Taglieri; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; Citywide Parents Council Co-Presidents Scott Alessandro and Courtney Perdios; and North Quincy High School Student Representative Luke Molloy.

School Committee Clerk Laura Owens was absent and the minutes were generated from the School Committee meeting video.

§

There was a moment of silence in memory of former Principal Daniel Malvesta, a Quincy Public Schools teacher and administrator for over forty years.

§

Mr. DeAmicis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for September 13, 2017. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting Minutes Approved 9.13.2017

§

Mr. Scott Alessandro, Citywide Parent Council Co-President, expressed concerns about growing enrollment in Quincy Public Schools, especially the potential impact of new construction. Also would like to see options discussed including returning Grade 5 at Point Webster and Sterling to their respective elementary schools.

Open Forum

§

Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent's Report with a Quincy School~Community Partnership update; upcoming events include the Welcome

Superintendent's Report

Back Reception on Thursday, September 28 at the Common Market; SPLASH, a learn to swim program for Grade 2 students in partnership with the South Shore YMCA; and the Teacher Mini-Grants Reception on Thursday, November 2. Executive Director Keith Segalla introduced Boston Scientific, who have supported Quincy Public Schools through generous donations of office and classroom furniture, technology, and cafeteria equipment. Boston Scientific has donated Surface tablets for an elementary school STEM initiative over the last few years and provided career shadowing and internship opportunities for high school students. Diana Rose represented Boston Scientific, giving an overview of their involvement in the greater Quincy Community.

Quincy High School Principal Larry Taglieri thanked Mayor Koch and the School Committee for the funding to expand the Athletic Director positions to be full time; the wellness component of these new positions will have an impact on all students beyond those involved in Athletics. Mr. Taglieri then introduced Kevin Mahoney, the new Quincy High School Athletic Director and North Quincy High School Principal Robert Shaw introduced Jean-Jacques (J.J.) Niamkey as the new North Quincy High School Athletic Director.

Senior Director of Curriculum Madeline Roy introduced the new Curriculum Team Administrator for STEM, Edward Smith. Mr. Smith has been a teacher at Quincy High School for seventeen years, the Quincy High School Science department chair for the last seven years, and has been the Robotics program coordinator for both middle and high school.

The City of Presidents 5K Run/Walk was held on Sunday, September 24, over 750 participants walked and ran the course, and enjoyed the cookout and family events afterward on Adams Field. Many volunteers from both high schools, including Community Service and Culinary students, assisted staff from the Parks, Recreation, Mayor's Office, and Quincy Public Schools in organizing this event held once again in memory of Emily Zarnoch.

City of Quincy ArtsFest was held on September 16-17, Quincy Public Schools had seventeen award winners and one best of show from North Quincy High School student Iris Xie among the student entries. Fifteen art teachers coordinated the student entries, working with Dr. Hallett and the Quincy Arts Association.

Senior Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile met with the BOKS trainers and representatives from Reebok on September 19 to launch the Fall BOKS program beginning Monday, October 2 and running 12 weeks through December 22. The BOKS program is made possible by a generous donation from Reebok in memory of Emily Zarnoch.

Dr. DeCristofaro noted that this school year, the 100th anniversary of two Quincy Public Schools buildings will be celebrated: Point Webster Middle School on

Saturday, November 18 at 2:00 pm and Parker Elementary School on Saturday, May 12, 2018.

Thanks to Director of Safety & Security Michael Draicchio for coordinating the Fall Safety drills at all Quincy Public Schools locations. The building evacuation, lockdown, and bus evacuation drills are a collaboration with the Quincy Police and Fire Departments.

The Nobel Laureates Initiative will continue this school year with a visit from Physics Nobel Laureate Dr. Jerome Friedman from MIT on October 26 at North Quincy High School. On October 12, Quincy High School Class of 1952 Alum Dr. Arthur Gossard (grandson of former Quincy Public Schools Superintendent Paul Gossard), National Medal of Technology and Innovation recipient.

Dr. DeCristofaro announced that preliminary enrollment is around 9,600 students, an increase of 164 students from last school year. The largest growth is at the high school level, where there is an additional 100 students, split between the two schools. At this time, 90% of elementary classes are at 21 students or below; 89% of middle school classes are at 24 students or below; and 85% of high school classes are at 25 students or below. The official October 1 enrollment will be shared at the October 11 School Committee meeting.

Thanks to Mayor Koch and the Quincy City Council for the recent \$4 million appropriation under the Capital Improvement Plan which will benefit Quincy Public Schools in many ways. Dr. DeCristofaro is looking forward to collaborating with the Public Buildings department on the projects planned for winter and spring completion.

Harvest Festivals are planned at several schools in October: Wollaston School on October 14; Snug Harbor Community School on October 21; and Beechwood Knoll on October 28.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked the Principals, Assistant Principals, and Teachers for planning the Fall Open Houses held at all school locations, many success

Dr. DeCristofaro concluded the Superintendent's Report with the Inspire Quincy video, featuring highlights from the Band Instrument Demonstrations for Grades 4 and 5 students, interviews with Fall Athletics Soccer captains and new Quincy Public Schools Professional staff members.

§

There was no Old Business on the Agenda.

Old Business

§

Health Services Coordinator Rita Bailey presented the Health Services Program Improvement Plan, beginning with a reflection on the goals from 2016-2017. Each school continued their wellness initiatives based on the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Healthy Schools program. The second goal was to improve communication between the Health Office and the school community. School nurses worked together to create a Health Services page on Aspen, accessible to all students and parents through the Student Portal. Commonly used forms are found here and information and updates on health topics posted as well. School nurses are also integral to the Substance Use Education and Prevention efforts, including the many presentations and activities throughout the school year.

New Business
 Program Improvement
 Plan Presentation:
 Health Services

Looking forward to 2017-2018, Health Services goals are to continue wellness initiatives and collaboration with the site-based Wellness Teams and continue to expand communication opportunities on health and wellness issues. In addition, the Health, Nutrition, and Wellness Advisory Council will continue to meet quarterly, and utilize community resources to support school Wellness Teams. School nurse professional development will focus on increasing nursing skills and knowledge and coordinating the Health & Wellness Symposium and the Matter of Heart Initiative, in collaboration with Brewster Ambulance.

86,881 student encounters with School Nurses annually, with a 93% rate for students returned to classes. 2,530 students with ongoing healthcare needs were cared for, and 62 students with head injuries incurred in school-related and outside school activities were monitored. Annual screenings are completed for hearing and vision and through the Department of Public Health, oral health is maintained through optional screening. School Nurse Georgina Sullivan reviewed the Big Smiles Dental Program, piloted at Clifford Marshall Elementary School for students without dental insurance. A portable dental unit was set up on the auditorium stage for privacy and 75 students were seen over five days, including filling cavities, sealants completed, and several extractions. This mobile model also has the advantage of taking less time away from the school day, as students were absent from class around 30 minutes. The Big Smiles program will return to Clifford Marshall in March 2018.

Mrs. Bailey announced a new partnership with the South Shore Hospital and Dana Farber/Brigham & Women's Cancer Center. The partnership will provide opportunities for student support through onsite training opportunities and Career & Technical Education Program Advisory membership

Mr. Bregoli asked about the mobile optometrist and eye glasses initiative reviewed during last year's Program Improvement Presentation. Mrs. Bailey said that unfortunately, that service is no longer available, but she is looking into other options to provide this service to students.

Senior Director of Student Support Services Maura Papile presented the Student Support Services Program Improvement Plan. Student Support Services consists of Guidance Counselors at the Elementary, Middle, and High School levels, School Psychologists, Middle School Health Educators, High School Health Interventionists, Physical Education teachers, Supervisors of Attendance, and Homeless Coordinator. Mrs. Papile presented the program review in the framework of Student Support initiatives and professional development, including support for PBIS (Positive Behavioral Initiatives and Supports), a framework for systems to assist schools to teach children appropriate behavior, identify needs for additional support, develop strategies, and evaluate practice toward success. For middle and high school, staff are working directly with students on developing life skills, peer to peer education, and support for appropriate decision-making. Quincy Police DARE Officer Don Sautter presented on the Grades 5 and 7 Substance Use Education and Prevention curriculum, family events to strengthen community connections, and the DARE Summer program for Grade 5 students citywide with high school peer leader support. Health Educator Caitlin Plaskasovitis spoke about professional development on the Life Skills curriculum being utilized at all middle schools; the development of the adolescent brain and the impact of substance use; and substance use and addiction. A recent professional development on the impact of the legalization of marijuana.

New Business

Program Improvement
Plan Presentation:
Student Support Services

Another component of the PBIS framework is the Diversity & Respect initiative. Supported by Visions, Inc., the goal is to equip students and staff with the tools needed to communicate and engage in a diverse world and create strategies for inclusion that allows for the engagement of all students. Substance Use Education & Prevention support provided through the CEASAR Program with Boston Children’s Hospital, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and the Mayor’s Office. This event was focused on development of Science-based Substance Use Prevention curriculum planning, using the background of public health and medicine to address the factors of the opioid crisis.

High School Guidance Counselors and School Psychologists are focusing on ensuring student success with earlier interventions and addressing barriers for students with anxiety or other transitional issues. The Year Up program, a collaboration with the Mayor’s Office and State Street, which assists in getting students who have delayed entry to college into the workforce while still keeping higher education as a goal. Physical Education teams are focused on the Wellness initiatives and promoting the benefits of exercise and activity; there are measurable connections to educational and emotional success.

In summary, the Student Support team has started off the school year with goal-setting, professional development for executive functioning, collaborated on freshman student orientation, mentor program launch, and back to school nights at each high school. Mrs. Papile thanked the Mayor’s Office, Thompson Family,

Blue Cross Blue Shield, and the Rural Masonic Lodge for funding support for all of this programming and curriculum.

Mrs. Lebo thanked Mrs. Papile for the incredible presentation, so many great initiatives across the city and collaboration with the Quincy Police and other departments. Mrs. Lebo asked about the high school guidance counselors and their goal of educating students about the

For credit recovery, Mrs. Lebo asked if professional staff are involved with supervising students

Mrs. Lebo asked for a presentation at an upcoming meeting on the Supervisors of Attendance on attendance statistics. In the District Profile, would like to include AP and SAT scores and the Chapter 74 Core Indicators.

Mrs. Mahoney agreed about seeing the SAT and AP scores at a future meeting. Mrs. Mahoney said the presentation encompassed a large amount of information and asked whether the Dental program is supported through MassHealth. Mrs. Bailey said it is a grant and a pilot program at Clifford Marshall this week. Mrs. Mahoney said it is an incredible opportunity to support student health. Mrs. Mahoney said that it is good to see all of the Substance Use Prevention & Education initiatives, through the Mayor's Office, Quincy Public Schools has made so much progress in having open conversation with students, threaded through everything we do. Mrs. Mahoney asked about parent participation, we need to provide the tools for them to continue the conversations with their students.

Mrs. Hubley thanked the presenters and noted that there are 180 homeless students and unaccompanied youth in the Quincy Public Schools. Mrs. Hubley asked for a breakdown by elementary, middle, and high school levels. Mrs. Hubley asked about the level relative to previous years, Mrs. Papile said it is about the same at this time last year, but families will experience stress in this area over the course of the year.

Mayor Koch thanked Mrs. Papile for her leadership, in his ten years as Mayor, has seen the importance of education as a prevention tool.

Ms. Isola said that in reviewing the Program Improvement Plans, she was struck by how many departments Health and Student Support Services interact with. So much work goes into ensuring that students have multiple caring adults to connect with in their lives. Ms. Isola said that she is always amazed by the number of student interactions with nurses and the chronic conditions monitored by the school nurses and the security that provides for families. Thanks to both Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Papile for their continued research to find programs that will benefit

North Quincy High School Student Representative Luke Molloy thanked Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Papile for the programming available to Quincy Public Schools students. Mr. Molloy participates in a DESE Student Council panel, students from other school systems are impressed by the resources of Quincy Public Schools.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked both Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Papile, this is truly a citywide collaboration. Thanks are also due to the School Committee for their support through the budget in funding the additional school nurse position. All of the work done here is instrumental in providing surround care for students.

§

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to approve the Out of State Travel of the North Quincy & Quincy High School Robotics Team to the FRS Robotics Competition in Manchester, New Hampshire on October 14, 2017. Ms. Isola seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
Out of State Travel

§

Mrs. Mahoney asked about the impact of new construction on enrollment. Mrs. Mahoney asked about the purchase of the St. Mary’s School land, which was approved at City Council last week and suggested that there be further discussion about Quincy Public Schools siting an elementary school there.

Additional Business

§

Upcoming meetings were announced: October 11, 2017 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 19, 2017 (Budget & Finance at 5:00 p.m.; Facilities & Security at 5:30 p.m.; and Policy at 6:00 pm).

§

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

§

There was no Executive Session.

Executive Session

§

Mayor Koch made a motion to adjourn for the evening at 8:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubley and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment