

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – May 4, 2011

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 in the City Council Chambers, City Hall. Present were: Mr. Dave McCarthy, Ms. Barbara Isola, Mrs. Jo-Ann Bragg, Mrs. Elaine Dwyer, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, and Mayor Koch, Chairman

Regular Mtg.

Chairman
Presiding

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The Superintendent called the roll and Mrs. Lebo was absent. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Mrs. Tefta Burrelli, Clerk; Messrs. Mulvey, Mullaney, Draicchio, Murphy and Keith Segalla. Ms. Papile, Todd and Roberts. Ms. Allison Cox, QEA President, and Tracey Christello, Citywide. There was a moment of silence for Maureen Crowley, Elaine Long, Dick Haines, and Barbara Ryan.

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The regular session minutes for April 6, 2011 were tabled by Mrs. Bragg

3/23/2011 Mins. Tabled

On a motion by Mrs. Lebo, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee approved the Executive Session minutes for March 23, 2011. On a roll call vote, the motion passed 4-0. Mrs. Lebo was absent and Mrs. Bragg and Mrs. Dwyer voted PRESENT.

Exec.Mins.Approved
3/23/2011

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This week is Teacher Appreciation Week and May 11 is Nurses Appreciation Day. We are thankful for the hard work offered by our professional staff.

Supts. Report

The family of David C. Ezickson, a former teacher in the Quincy Public Schools, were present to give out grant awards for Excellence in Teaching to three outstanding elementary teachers. Teachers were invited to apply for the three mini grants. The recipients received a mini grant of \$350 each. Winners were chosen by the Ezickson family. Winners who received the grant were Thomas Natola, Dinnean Boss and Rachel Bloom.

David C. Ezickson

The winners of the middle school foreign language poster and high school essay contest winners were present to be recognized by the Committee. This is the third annual contest year. The students received a certificate and read their essays.

The Foreign Exchange students and their teachers were present to report on their visit to Paris. They spoke of the friendships they made, the classes they attended, the French high schools, played rugby and had a wonderful experience. Students made friendships they expect to last a lifetime. They thanked the Committee for allowing them this wonderful opportunity.

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Ms. Linda Perry spoke to Children's Mental Health Day. The purpose is to raise public awareness for children who have needs. One out of five children has a disorder and one out of 10 children has an anxiety disorder. On Monday, May 9 the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education finalized their guidelines for implementing the Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum. May is National Foster Care Month.

Open Forum

Ms. Marion Viera spoke to an incident at Quincy High School. Her son was punched in the face at least 12 times. Her son's nose was broken and the other boy was taken to the hospital for injuries to his hand. She believes the dean was negligent by letting the other boy return to the regular school population before and not informing security. Her son now lives with a relative and attends high school 50 miles away. She is concerned that there aren't clearer mechanisms to handle these situations.

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Mrs. Roberts gave an overview of the summer reading process used within Quincy Public Schools. Each year, lists of suggested readings are compiled for each grade level K-8. Lists are sent to the schools, posted on the QPS website, sent to the Thomas Crane Library and to all local book stores. Beginning last year our process was streamlined. Letters went home telling parents they could access the reading list on our QPS website. Students are invited to participate in this reading experience over the summer by keeping a log of the number of books or pages they have read. Many of our elementary schools will have open library hours during the summer (all on a volunteer basis). High school students are expected to read one or more assigned books over the summer depending on their course level. Choices are given at each level, but the number of books expected remains consistent. In the fall of each year, students are given an assessment of the books that were assigned over the summer, teachers used these grades as extra test scores to enhance the first years test scores.

Summer Reading

Many of our elementary schools provide Summer Math packets to their students to complete over the summer. Five elementary schools consistently do this. Other schools with newer principals have asked to participate as well. We are going to ask the schools that do give our the summer math packets to share those with the schools that have not been doing that. It is something that they will do if they see fit.

Summer Math

Many schools use a web-based program called *Study Island*. Students can continue to do math over the summer. Those students have a user ID which they can access that program at home. With the new frameworks Mrs. Roberts plans to encourage all schools to provide math opportunities through kits or web-based programs.

Mrs. Roberts explained that there are no assessment for middle school. Because of the budget issues last year, it was not followed through. One school piloted this. Those students who did read over the summer were given the assessment and received extra credit for the first term. This year, middle schools have a log, and students are recognized and given a certificate.

Principals will print some reading lists for those parents who ask for it.

Ms. Isola was concerned about the math packets and the consistency across the city. She would like to have it available for all students no matter what elementary school they are in.

Mrs. Roberts is making copies of math packets and sending out to those schools who think they are best for their students. Mrs. Roberts will ask the elementary principals to send them out.

The Atherton Hough Centennial was a great success. Thanks went to Principal, Dottie Greene and all who made the day a big success. The North Quincy High Atrium of Honor was another successful event. Thanks went to Principal Metzler, Glen Oriola, Kevin Murphy, and of course, Mayor Koch. The CSL event will be held tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. in the Terrill Room. The Superintendent invited the members to attend.

Last week, the Superintendent and Mr. Mullaney met with the Mayor and received the budget numbers. The Team and principals are thankful for a budget that will sustain all of our current levels. Mrs. Mahoney has called a Budget Subcommittee meeting for Wednesday, May 11 at 4:30 p.m. The leadership team will prepare for that meeting.

FY12 Budget

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The heat has been shut off by Maintenance in the schools. Maintenance replaced floor and ceiling tiles at Squantum, Bernazzani, Central, Wollaston, Point Webster, Sterling, Broad Meadows and North Quincy. Thanks went to the Maintenance and custodial staff for all the work done at the Atherton Hough Centennial celebration. Security cameras were installed at Quincy High School and a new sink and base cabinet at Wollaston.

Bldg. Update

Mr. McCarthy inquired about another leak at Quincy High School by the Principal's office. Mr. Murphy said he was not aware of it. Mr. McCarthy

said it was on the first floor, near the guidance office. The carpet needs to be pulled up. Mr. Murphy will look into this.

Mrs. Dwyer and Mr. Murphy will get together sometime in May to go over any outstanding repairs or requests that came through the SIPs and report back to the School Committee before the end of the year.

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Mrs. Dwyer will investigate the latest leak at Quincy High School with Tishman and Gilbane and Gary Cunniff. She wants to do a walk through before the warranty ends in July to make sure nothing needs to be repaired or replaced. PJ Kennedy did extend his contract for two more years.

QHS Bldg. Committee
Mrs. Dwyer reports

Mr. McCarthy inquired about the houses on Saville Ave. The two houses are under the jurisdiction of the School Committee.

Mrs. Dwyer asked for a presentation from Mr. Cunniff about tearing down the old high school, the status of Coddington Hall and the two houses.

Mr. McCarthy inquired about the wall behind the two houses. He would like somebody with an engineering background to check it out. The water is trying to find a way out and he is afraid the wall will crumble.

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There was a presentation to the City Council on April 26 from Ai3 and Tishman on the new Central Middle School. It was the same overview the School Committee received. It was received very well and put into the Finance Committee.

Central Bldg. Committee
Mrs. Mahoney reports

In the presentation the importance that labor be represented came up and it was noted at the City Council that the Mayor was going to be meeting with representatives of the South Shore Trade Council in the upcoming weeks with regard to Central.

On April 26 and April 28 Ai3 met with school personnel to discuss classroom/teacher planning areas, science areas, office area designs. The next key meeting will be on May 10 a public meeting, on May 19 a presentation to Central parents. On June 13 the City Council will vote on the funding for Central Middle School.

Emily Lebo arrives at 8:26 p.m.

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At this time, Keith Segalla, Ellen Garofalo, Ellen Hunter and Chuck Phelan

IT Department

gave an overview of the Information Technology Department. The IT Department has a three year plan submitted to the state which is approved until 2012. The IT department has several teams--the Program of Studies/Scheduling Team consistently communicates scheduling issues, timelines, appropriate tasks and data dissemination, the Secretaries Team has been formed for the purpose of training, mentoring and communicating individual school and system issues, The Educational Technology Team facilitates, enhances and implements curriculum integration through the use of instructional technology in the 21st. Century Classroom. Quincy Public Schools has 2,750 computers (a 4.1 student to computer ratio), 169 Interwrite Boards and 45 Mobi Tables. Four Technicians provide support to staff and schools. Computrace Track has been installed on our computers. In 2010, 86% of our students have computer access at home or at the library, a friend's/family house. This year we are in the process of upgrading Microsoft Office 2003 to 2010. Teachers are using Easy Grade Pro. This is an electronic grade book designed for educators at all grade levels who want a computerized tool to manage student data, including grades, attendance, seating assignments, etc. This program allows teachers to generate summaries and reports to communicate student data with others. The Committee saw a sampling of an Easy Grade Pro Gradebook Form.

Eighty percent of QPS teachers at the middle/high school level utilize Easy Grade Pro and/or a similar grading management system. Easy Grade Pro is available and is optional for all QPS teachers to utilize. The IT Department provides professional development for this program.

Data Processing consistently communicates issues relating to administrative computing needs and the DESE data reporting requirements. Star Base is used for student reporting, EasyIEP for Special Education, SNAP for nurses, Naviance is a College/Career Planning program. The Data Processing reports to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, student information, education personnel information, student course schedule system, school safety and discipline reporting and Civil Rights Data Collection. In 2003 we reported to the state 750,000 submissions, in 2011 we have gone up to 4,500,000. Data Processing is responsible for parental communication, Middle/High School Interim Reports, report cards, Summer School letters.

Informational Technology communicates effectively with staff, students and parents as well as provide technological training, guidance, information and services to school administrators and personnel that support state and local learning standards and contribute to the academic performance and development of all students.

Mr. Chuck Phelan, spoke to the infrastructure, network servers, email, and active directory. He has been applying for ERATE money which he puts back into the schools. There have been problems with Quincy Public Schools e-mails.

However with the upgrades, there should be drastic improvement. Some of the teachers are using Gmail. Mr. Phelan cautioned that this is an insecure site. He wouldn't use it for children's information. FERPA Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is a Federal law protects the privacy of student records. Data Processing does not use any students' social security numbers at all. Updating the infrastructure is a massive undertaking.

Quincy uses funding resources from ERATE, Partnerships donate computers, Comcast money, grant opportunities and the QPS Budget. We communicate by Instant Alert, School Messenger, QPS website and our educational station, Channel 22.

Mrs. Lebo suggests a policy mandating teachers use the QPS emails after we get these new systems.

Ms. Isola asked for a computer inventory with the breakdown of elementary, middle and high school.

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On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee approved the trip for Montclair School to go to Canobie Lake Park on June 20, 2011. The ayes have it.

Montclair to
Canobie Lake

On a motion by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Bragg, the Committee approved a trip for Parker School to go to Canobie Lake Park on June 15, 2011. The ayes have it.

Parker to
Canobie Lake

On a motion by Ms. Isola, seconded by Mrs. Lebo, the Committee accepted the gift of 50 Dell Latitude D620 laptops valued at \$14,000 from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. The ayes have it.

Gift – 50 Dell
Laptops

On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee accepted the gift of 24 5'x8" American flags for school buildings around the City from the NAGE. The ayes have it.

Gift – American
Flags

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Mrs. Mahoney made a motion to amend the School Committee minutes for April 6, 2011 as follows:

SC Minutes 4/6/2011

“Mrs. Mahoney asked Jim Anderson about adding language to the contract stating that we establish a goal of hiring Quincy Trades people on this public job. Many of our residents are trades workers and they are on hard times due to the economic crisis and it would be great if we could get these people back to work.

The Mayor stated that this would be illegal – Mrs. Mahoney followed up with

the fact that surrounding communities are already doing this and we should try to do the same. She will research details of how other communities are accomplishing this.

Section under flooding Central:

“When inquiring about the issue of flooding Mr. Timmins addressed the questions and stated that the area of St Anne’s road is like a fishbowl. All the water collects at the end of the street. He stated "We will not be addressing this issue with the construction of the New Central Middle School".

Mrs. Mahoney moved her question to Mayor Koch asking about the 25m Capital Improvement Bond. She is aware of the neighborhood areas experiencing flooding that are being addressed in her own Ward, but asked if the Mayor planned to include this area end St Anne’s Road in the Capital Improvement Bond. The Mayor stated "NO" this area will not be addressed. If they were to deal with all the areas of need throughout the city, the city would be looking at \$300 million dollars to address flooding issues in Quincy. Mrs. Mahoney stated that "this would seem like the time (during construction of the New Central Middle School) to address this flooding issue.”

Mrs. Bragg tabled the minutes.

SC Mins. tabled

On a motion by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Ms. Isola, the Committee approved the Executive Session minutes for April 6, 2011. On a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0. Mrs. Bragg and Mrs. Dywer ABSTAINED.

Exec. Session Mins
Approved 4/6/2011

Mrs. Bragg asked if the Evening School students were out of Coddington Hall and in Quincy High School. The Superintendent said he is looking at Coddington Hall as a whole. He is looking for offices for Mrs. Morrissey, Jim Rendle, and Central Registration. The Evening School will be at Quincy High School this summer. It is too late to move the whole program to another location. The movie people are out of Coddington Hall. However, they do have the right to come back if they have to reshoot. The movie people were not CORIED but they were never alone with our students at any time. Mrs. Bragg asked for copies of the movie contracts.

Additional Business
Coddington Hall

Teen Mothers graduation will be Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethany Congregational Church.

The Policy Subcommittee met on May 3 to discuss the Service Animal Policy, Sexual Harassment Policy and the Harassment Policy. Mr. Mulvey was present to review all of them. Mr. Mulvey will make additions/corrections to the policies and email them to the members for their review. A paragraph on the Harassment Policy was tabled and will be reworked by Mr. Mulvey

Policy Subcommittee

and Ms. Isola. Mrs. Bragg also spoke with Mr. Shea, City Clerk and asked if there is a possibility they may move the voting out of the Merrymount School to the Good Council Church on Sea St. Mr. Shea will get back to Mrs. Bragg. The policies will be on the next agenda for approval.

On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee approved the April 4, 2011 Policy Subcommittee minutes. The ayes have it.

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On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee went into Executive Session at 9:53 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations related to Food Services division. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

To Exec. Session

The Committee returned to Open Session at 10:04 p.m. and on a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mrs. Lebo, the Committee approve an agreement between the Quincy School Committee and the Quincy Food Services Employee Association Local Chapter 888 SEIU that the parties agree that the latest collective bargaining agreement which expired on June 30, 2010 under the same terms and conditions shall remain in full force until a new collective bargaining agreement is reached by the parties, notwithstanding the aforementioned agreement at no time would the parties enter into an agreement that will results in a contract period in excess of three years. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Return to Open Session

On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee adjourned for the evening at 10:05 p.m. The ayes have it.

Adjournment

Chuck Phelan

One of the things we've done is we have aggressively gone after funding for e-rate. We began applying for it again. It is based on school lunches in the city, we were getting a reimbursement rate of 60% on any work you do to approve the network and infrastructure. We set up a fund for the e-rate specifically for the schools for money to be spent on technology in the Quincy Public Schools. The first couple of years we didn't do too great, only \$15,000. I worked with Rich O'Brien. He would give me the needs of the school and we would disseminate the money. In 2009, working with the Mayor's office we came up with funding from Comcast and put it into putting new switches in all the public schools. QHS have new ones and NQ. All the elementary and middle schools. We updated and then we update the internet. We re-applied for refund. The bill came in \$350,000 range. We were awarded 60% of that back. Essentially that money now is coming in. It is starting to come in and going into the e-rate fund. We are looking to do this summer we focus on the elementary and middle schools on the network. We plan to do this summer using money from the e-rate funds. We will be \$111,000 going to these schools so we can utilize the Comcast funds. The network that's in there (SH) is 8-9 yrs. old. Technology that old is not working that well. Taking the money from the e-rate fund putting it to fix to improve their output and a give them a lot more band width coming in. We will be doing that this summer and then we will be going back and reapplying for the good news is this year we made it up to 70% reimbursement. With the money I sit down with Keith he sits down with the super. I sit down with the Mayor we take the money and see what needs we can get. We've been trying to target needs that we know we can get reimbursement. That pot keeps rolling over. We keep applying for the funds. Two years we tripled the band going out of here. Now we are looking in at prices which are coming down.

When we put the labs in NQHS, it starts to put more and more of a strain on the system. You're looking to use some more of that money to increase the band width. We also look for various other grants.

When we put in the money to do the switches, the first thing I did was to go to the e-rate sayers. It qualified. We got reimbursement on all the switches. It comes in in drips and drabs. There is enough in the account now to begin to tackle one of these projects. We were able to buy more servers with e-rate money. Not coming out of tax dollars, not coming out of the school budget. We will be putting on an exchange server. It is expensive but because of the school discount with Microsoft it's reasonable.

You get the money from Comcast, use it as feed money and then go in and get the reimbursements. It is complicated. They leave it totally up to you to do the paperwork. Now I work with the new business agent and are constantly going back and forth. We have someone to help us and we pay him when we get the money. There was some problems with emails, but I think we're heading to a good place.