

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – January 8, 2014

- - -

Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mr. Paul Bregoli, Mr. Noel DiBona, Ms. Barbara Isola, Mayor Thomas Koch, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, Mr. David McCarthy, and Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, Vice Chair.

Regular Meeting

Vice-Chair Presiding

- - -

The Superintendent called the roll and all were present. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk; Mr. Michael Draicchio, Mrs. Mary Fredrickson, Ms. Beth Hallett, Mr. James Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Mrs. Maura Papile, Mrs. Erin Perkins, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla, Ms. Judy Todd; Ms. Hayley Forbes, North Quincy High School Representative to the School Committee; Ms. Lindsay Schrier, Quincy High School Representative to the School Committee; Ms. Paula Reynolds, Co-President, Citywide Parents' Council; and Ms. Allison Cox, President, Quincy Education Association.

- - -

There was a moment of silence in honor of those in service overseas.

- - -

Mr. Bregoli made a motion, seconded by Ms. Isola to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for December 11, 2013. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting
Minutes Approved
12/11/2013

Ms. Isola made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCarthy to approve the Organizational Meeting minutes for January 6, 2014. On a voice vote, the have it.

Organizational Meeting
Minutes Approved
1/6/2014

- - -

As no one wished to speak at Open Forum, School Committee moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Open Forum

- - -

Mayor Koch thanked those involved in the Inauguration held Monday, January 6 at Central Middle School. He thanked the event organizers, including Keith

Superintendent's Report

Segalla, Kevin Segalla, and Kevin Murphy and especially the many students who were an important part of the event, including the string musician ensemble, tour guides, the Culinary Arts students who prepared and served, and the combined high school chorus. Mayor Koch welcomed Mr. DiBona as a new member to the School Committee, thanked Ms. Isola for two great years as Vice Chair, and congratulated Mrs. Hubley on her election as Vice Chair

Dr. DeCristofaro then introduced the Inspire Quincy video featuring selections from the recent holiday concerts, Drug Awareness Week presentations, and the elementary school Parent Academy.

Mr. DiBona met with Dr. DeCristofaro and members of the Superintendent's Leadership Team on Monday, January 6. This orientation meeting was focused on the Quincy Public Schools Budget, Special Education, Student Support Service, and School Committee Policy.

January 6 through 10 is Substance Abuse Awareness Week, sponsored by the Mayor's Office and Student Support Services. Presentations were held at each high school featuring John Morello and Chris Herren.

The South Shore YMCA has received a grant from the USA Swimming Foundation that will fund a Winter Learn to Swim program for Grades 3-4 students from Lincoln Hancock and Clifford Marshall at the Lincoln Hancock pool. The Middle School Competitive Swimming Skills program will again be held on the February and April vacation weeks.

In the December 2013 issue of the DESE Educator Evaluation e-newsletter, Quincy Public Schools was featured for the efforts to engage educators at all levels to identify and develop District-Determined Measures. The Superintendent is proud that the collaboration between teaching and administrative staff is being recognized for this valuable work.

A Parent Academy was held January 7 at the Central Middle School. Parents from Grades K through 5 were introduced to the *Journeys* Reading program and then participated in education technology breakout sessions hosted by elementary school principals. Parent evaluations were appreciative of the information shared, particularly about the web-based technology that can be used at home. On January 28, middle school parents will have the opportunity to learn about the Aspen Student Portal. On March 18, an overview of Assessment will be presented and transitions for Grades 8-9 students will be covered in a subsequent workshop still to be scheduled. Dr. DeCristofaro thanked the elementary principals and curriculum team members for their leadership.

Holiday Concerts were held at each school during the month of December. Dr. DeCristofaro thanked the choral and instrumental teachers, participation levels continue to increase at the middle and high school levels and the quality of the

performances is incredible.

In its 25th year of publication, Atlantic Middle School’s 2013 edition of the *Young Writers* magazine was awarded First Place with Special Merit by the American Scholastic Press Association. Dr. DeCristofaro thanked Principal Maureen MacNeil, Assistant Principal Adam Wolf, Advisor/Teacher Patricia Dunne, and the three student editors: Brigham McKee, Tianette McKee, and Dalia Sadaka.

Dr. DeCristofaro noted that School Committee had received a copy of the upcoming Partnership Events Calendar, a flyer for the Family Literacy event at Lincoln Hancock on January 16, and Aspen Publication #9 which focused on the Curriculum and Learning module. Examples of Home-School Connections include the Atherton Hough and Wollaston Monthly Newsletters and the Broad Meadows and Montclair Curriculum Newsletters. Dr. DeCristofaro concluded his report by thanking the principals for their tremendous efforts to share information with parents about their schools and citywide programs.

- - -

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to dedicate the Quincy High School Custodians' Office in honor of Thomas Orseno, 20-year veteran of the custodial staff. Mayor Koch seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

Old Business
Facilities Dedications
(Vote)

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to dedicate a portion of green space on the site of the former Quincy High School building to former teacher and English Department Chair Bruce McDonald. Mayor Koch seconded the motion and on a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

- - -

The Professional Development Plan for 2013-2014 was presented by the Curriculum & Assessment Management Team. Senior Curriculum Coordinator Madeline Roy opened the presentation, noting that each School Committee member received a copy of the Professional Development Plan, which is organized by program, school, and master schedule (organized sequentially by date). This plan is posted on the website, informs staff and community members of the priorities of collaborative goals and team planning; the plan overview summarizes the goals and priorities for the year. The emphasis is on sustaining and improving best practices, connecting to district and state initiatives around academics, school culture, and school safety.

New Business
Professional
Development Plan
Presentation

Curriculum Coordinator Erin Perkins then spoke about the Professional Development Team, Pre-K through 12 staff and administrative members. Goals are: collaboration and representation; building capacity with high-quality professional development; and evaluation of effective professional development.

Internal and ongoing Professional Development for Quincy Public School initiatives includes Curriculum Pacing and Alignment, new Core Resources, Common Benchmark Assessments, Data Analysis, the ASPEN Student Information system, and the inclusion model for Middle School Mathematics.

Curriculum Coordinator Beth Hallett noted that the majority of professional development is focused on connecting to state initiatives: to support the Common Core, WIDA, RETELL, Educator Evaluation, and District-Determined Measures. Career and Technical Education standards are in transition (a year behind Common Core). In addition, we are investigating grant funding to re-invigorate school-based data teams, increasing capacity for analysis and use of data.

Mrs. Mahoney complimented the huge undertaking that creating the Professional Development Plan entails and asked whether professional development is videotaped. Ms. Roy agreed that it could be in the future and that the Curriculum & Assessment module for Aspen will be useful for sharing these videos.

Mrs. Mahoney asked about utilization of Aspen and whether all teachers are using the online gradebook. Mr. Keith Segalla clarified that while attendance, interim report, and report card posting in Aspen are required, using the online gradebook is optional. Mrs. Mahoney suggested surveying staff and also asking if additional training would assist with the transition. Mrs. Mahoney complimented how much has been accomplished in a very short time in terms of implementing Aspen.

Director of Data Analysis Mary Fredrickson outlined the Assessment Calendar, which has been updated; additional items in red relate to District-Determined Measures and PARCC field tests. Pilot PARCC field test will be administered at all middle and high schools, plus half of elementary schools. These will not be for record of individual student assessment, so the randomly selected students will take both the PARCC and MCAS testing.

Ms. Isola asked about the PARCC field tests and whether the same classes will take both the March and May assessments. Mrs. Fredrickson said we are still waiting for clarification on this issue. The length of time for each test varies for each grade. This is a technical and administrative field test, along with item norming. Ms. Roy said while there are prescribed start and end times for the tests, this may be part of what is being field tested.

Superintendent DeCristofaro thanked all of the members of the Superintendent's Leadership and Principal Teams and the Quincy Education Association and Allison Cox. An unprecedented level of Professional Development is needed to support these many initiatives.

- - -

Mr. McCarthy nominated Ms. Laura Owens for a second two-year term as School Committee Clerk, thanking her for professionalism and organization of School

School Committee
Clerk Appointment

Committee matters. Mrs. Mahoney seconded the motion, recounting Ms. Owens' experience that led to her position in the Quincy Public Schools. On a roll call vote, the ayes have it 7-0.

On the motion, both Mayor Koch and Dr. DeCristofaro complimented Ms. Owens for her work with the Superintendent and School Committee over the last two years.

- - -

Mrs. Hubley introduced the draft 2014-2015 School Year Calendar and School Committee meeting calendar and moved these to the Policy Subcommittee meeting for further discussion. These drafts will be shared with all Quincy Public Schools staff, the Quincy Education Association, Citywide Parents Council, Quincy Parent Advisory Council to Special Education, and posted on the Quincy Public Schools website and Facebook and Twitter for public comment.

2014-2015 School Committee Meeting and 2014-2015 School Year Draft Calendars

Mr. Bregoli announced that these two calendars would be on the agenda for the Policy Subcommittee Meeting scheduled for Monday, January 13 at 5:15 pm following the Budget & Finance Subcommittee Meeting.

- - -

Mayor Koch made a motion to accept the gift of a baby grand piano from Dr. Steven A. Brustin for the Point Webster Middle School. Ms. Isola seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Gift: Piano

- - -

Mayor Koch made a motion to accept the gift of a Multi-Lane Timer/Scoreboard from the South Shore YMCA to the Lincoln Hancock Community School. Ms. Isola seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Gift: Multi-Lane Timer/Scoreboard

- - -

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the Overnight Travel of the Quincy High School Student Council to the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils Conference in Hyannis, MA March 5 through March 7, 2014. Mr. Bregoli seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Overnight Travel

- - -

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the Out of State Travel of the Point Webster Middle School Grade 8 students to New York City, NY June 5 through June 6, 2014. Mr. Bregoli seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Out of State Travel

Ms. Isola made a motion to approve the Out of State Travel of the Sterling Middle

School Grade 8 students to New York City, NY June 4 through June 5, 2014. Mayor Koch seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the Out of State Travel of the North Quincy and Quincy High Schools HYPER Robotics team to the FRC Regional Competition March 5 through March 8, 2014. Ms. Isola seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mrs. Hubley requested a copy of the itinerary accompany any future Out of State travel requests.

- - -

Mrs. Mahoney announced that there will be a Special Education Subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, January 15 at 6:00 pm at Quincy High School.

Additional Business

Mrs. Mahoney requested an update on the status of items on the Central Middle School punchlist.

Mrs. Mahoney suggesting creating a Facebook event for the next Parent Academy. She also suggested posting a video tutorial for the Aspen Student Portal.

Mrs. Mahoney asked whether Streetworks had fulfilled their financial committment to the School~Community Business Partnership.

Mrs. Hubley announced updated Subcommittee assignments; the Quincy Public Schools website has also been updated to reflect this information:
Budget & Finance: Mrs. Hubley (chair); all School Committee members
Facilities & Security: Mr. McCarthy (chair); Mr. Bregoli, Mrs. Hubley
Health, Transportation, & Safety: Mr. DiBona (chair); Mr. Bregoli; Mr. McCarthy
Policy: Mr. Bregoli (chair); Mrs. Hubley, Ms. Isola
Rules, Post Audit, & Oversight: Mrs. Hubley (chair); Ms. Isola, Mrs. Mahoney
Special Education: Mrs. Mahoney (chair); Mr. DiBona, Mr. McCarthy
Teaching & Learning: Ms. Isola (chair), Mrs. Hubley, Mrs. Mahoney

- - -

Mrs. Hubley welcomed new *Quincy Sun* reporter Kris Kalabokas and wished former reporter Emily Taft Armstrong the best in her new endeavors.

Communications

- - -

Mrs. Mahoney made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bregoli and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment