

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – December 6, 2017

Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at Central Middle School at 6:00 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. Nicholas Ahearn, Ms. Christine Barrett, Mr. Peter Dionne, Mr. Michael Draicchio, Ms. Christine Flynn, Dr. John Franceschini, Mr. Daniel Gilbert, Dr. Beth Hallett, Ms. Tiffany Helling, Mr. James Hennessy, Ms. Breanne Higson, Ms. Margaret MacNeil, Ms. Maureen MacNeil, Ms. Robin Moreira, Mr. James Mullaney, Deputy Superintendent Kevin Mulvey, Ms. Maura Papile, Ms. Erin Perkins, Ms. Kimberly Quinn, Ms. Madeline Roy, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mr. Kevin Segalla, Mr. Robert Shaw, Mr. Edward Smith, Mr. Lawrence Taglieri, Ms. Bridget Vaughan; School Committee Member-Elect Anthony Andronico; Ward 1 City Councillor-Elect David McCarthy; Quincy Education Association President Allison Cox; Citywide Parents Council Co-Presidents Scott Alessandro and Courtney Perdios; Quincy Parent Advisory Council to Special Education President Cassandra Beck; NQHS Student Representative and Student Advisory Council Chair Luke Molloy and QHS Student Representative Timothy Nguyen.

Mr. Bregoli noted that this is his last meeting as Vice-Chair, and as he did at his first meeting, he is using the gavel presented to former Ward 2 City Councillor Ted DeCristofaro by former City Councillor Paul Harold.

§

Mr. DeAmicis made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hubley to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for November 15, 2017. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting
Minutes Approved
11.15.2017

Ms. Isola made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeAmicis to approve the Executive Session minutes for November 15, 2017. On a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Regular Meeting
Minutes Approved
11.15.2017

§

Citywide Co-President Courtney Perdios recognized Mrs. Mahoney and Ms. Isola for their advocacy on behalf of the students and families of Quincy Public Schools. The Citywide Parent Council is looking forward to continue working with Mayor

Open Forum

Koch, Mr. Bregoli, Mr. DeAmicis, Mrs. Hubley, and Mrs. Lebo, along with the new members Mr. Andronico and Mr. Gutro.

Citywide Parent Council Co-President Scott Alessandro read the following letter which was sent to all School Committee members:

Dear Dr. DeCristofaro and members of the Quincy School Committee:

The Quincy Citywide Parents Council, also known as the Citywide Parent Teacher Organization or Citywide PTO, embraces Quincy Public Schools' mission to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment for students to achieve their individual maximum potential. We also support students learning to value and respect each other's uniqueness. It is for these reasons that we, as an organization, believe that action is required regarding North Quincy High School's current mascot.

Citywide PTO acknowledges that the School Committee voted in 1993 to keep the mascot despite being asked three years earlier by the US Department of Education to voluntarily remove it. In 1995 the Boston office of the Federal Civil Rights Office found the mascot offensive but ruled that offensiveness did not equate a hostile environment. Today we have a more informed understanding of what is deemed appropriate for our learning environments and what students, all students, need to be successful in school. Offensive but legal should not be the standard for our district. In order for QPS to be a district where students and their needs are the priority, we must ensure that all of our messaging and actions and all of the symbols of our messaging and actions are true to this mission. Citywide PTO does not believe the current North Quincy High School mascot lives up to this ideal.

Citywide PTO proposes the following steps to address the North Quincy High School mascot. Our desire to start this dialogue is not intended to discount or detract from Dr. Yacubian's contributions to our city. We are also not passing judgment on the motivations or character of those involved in the creation, or support of, the mascot. We are sensitive to and understand the history and enthusiasm for the current mascot. We ask for the same sensitivity in understanding why we feel it is time for a change.

Recommendations for School Committee and QPS Administration: Work with Visions, Inc. to explore how best to frame the discussion around the current North Quincy High School mascot. Develop a strategy and timeline for inclusive discussions in the appropriate Quincy schools and appropriate grade levels. Provide teachers and administrators professional development time to participate in planning and to determine how best to hold these conversations in their respective schools.

Recommendations for Quincy Public Schools: Since the North Quincy High School mascot represents not just North Quincy, but all Quincy Public Schools, conversations about the mascot should not be limited to North Quincy. QPS should provide opportunities for students at all Quincy schools to discuss the

appropriateness of the North Quincy High School mascot in a safe, non-judgmental atmosphere where differences of opinion are recognized, understood, appreciated, and utilized for the benefit of all. We invite the Social Studies departments and teachers to lead their students in critically examining the history, perception, and accuracy of the current mascot and whether or not it reflects the educational excellence and culture of inclusion expected in Quincy Public Schools.

Citywide PTO would welcome the opportunity to be part of this process. We will dedicate the time and energy needed to assist and support students, teachers, administrators, and school committee members to move forward the steps outlined above.

Respectfully, Quincy Citywide PTO

Mr. John Rodophele spoke in favor of retaining Yakoo as the mascot at North Quincy High School.

Ms. Sherrie Noble spoke in favor of reviewing the appropriateness of the Yakoo mascot.

§

Dr. DeCristofaro opened the Superintendent’s Report recognizing the National Merit Commended Scholars: *Andrew Lee, Samuel Serjani, and Jing Yi Zhao* from North Quincy High School and *Paul Donahue and Rachel Zisk* from Quincy High School. *Ryan Wong* from North Quincy High School was also recognized as a National Merit Semi-Finalist, one of 16,000 nationwide.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. DeCristofaro noted that the students from all five Middle School Robotics teams attended the First Lego League Qualifier at Worcester Polytechnic Institute last Saturday. 36 teams from 16 cities and towns competed; special thanks to the teacher/coaches from each school.

Dr. DeCristofaro announced that the 2nd Annual Bob McGillicuddy Memorial Swim Meet for Quincy and North Quincy High Schools Swim Team Alumni will be held on December 30, 2017 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Lincoln Hancock Pool. ‘Tis the Season will be held on Monday, December 11 at 7:00 pm at Quincy High School. Other upcoming events include Holiday Concerts at all schools and the Gingerbread House decorating event on Friday, December 8 hosted by the Quincy Parent Advisory Council to Special Education.

At last night’s Parent Academy, over 80 parents attended to hear Dr. Nadine Gaab, a neurologist from Boston Childrens Hospital speak on brain development.

A New School Committee Orientation will be held in early January for new members Anthony Andronico and Doug Gutro.

Dr. DeCristofaro concluded his Superintendent’s Report by thanking everyone who was a part of the Thanksgiving Day Football Game: players, coaches, athletic

directors, administrators, Quincy Police Department, parents, cheerleaders, and the marching band, who debuted their new uniforms, courtesy of Mayor Koch.

§

There was no Old Business on the Agenda.

Old Business

§

Director of Special Education Erin Perkins, Senior Curriculum Director Madeline Roy, and Curriculum Director Beth Hallett presented the winners of the annual American Education Week Poster and Essay Contest:

New Business

American Education Week Poster & Essay Contest Winners

Kindergarten through Grade 2 Posters: *1st Place:* Ms. Higson’s Grade 1 class, Wollaston Elementary School; *2nd Place:* Ms. Flynn’s Grade 1 class, Parker Elementary School; *3rd Place:* Ms. Helling’s Grade 2 class, Atherton Hough Elementary School

Grades 3-5 Essays: *1st Place:* Vanston Ly, Grade 5, teacher Ms. Healy, Bernazzani Elementary School; *2nd Place:* Xuan-Mai Ippolito, Grade 5, teacher Mr. Mullen, Point Webster Middle School; *3rd Place:* Emily Davis, Grade 3, teacher Ms. Kitoski, Clifford Marshall Elementary School

Grades 6-8 Essays: *1st Place:* Nghi Hua, Grade 7, teacher Ms. Rizzo, Sterling Middle School; *2nd Place:* Ruby Levine, Grade 7, teacher Mr. Walsh, Broad Meadows Middle School; *3rd Place (tie):* Vivian Chen, Grade 8 and Ada Lai, Grade 8, both from teacher Ms. Phillips, Atlantic Middle School

Grades 9-10 Essays: *1st Place:* Hannah Murphy, Grade 9, teacher Ms. Cesso, Quincy High School; *2nd Place:* Patrick Rak, Grade 10, teacher Ms. Bacchieri, Quincy High School; *3rd Place:* Liana Gao, Grade 9, teacher Ms. Hanson, North Quincy High School

Students in Grades 11 and 12 will compete in the Lions Club Speech Contest next week.

Mayor Koch thanked the students, their hard work is evident from the essays and posters shared tonight.

Mrs. Mahoney said she enjoys seeing students from the youngest grades to the oldest and their very thoughtful approach to the topic.

Ms. Isola said that this is her favorite School Committee meeting of the year, so special to see the students and their supportive families.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked the Curriculum Team, the Principals, Assistant Principals, and Teachers for all their efforts on this contest. Our teachers are the best and give so much beyond the regular classroom day.

§

Mayor Koch made a motion to move Extended School Day/Recess to the Policy Subcommittee. Mrs. Lebo seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
Extended School Day/Recess to Policy Subcommittee

§

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the February 16-24, 2018 Out of the Country Travel of Quincy High School to Japan.

New Business
Out of the Country Travel

On the motion, Mr. Bregoli expressed his concern with our students traveling to this part of the world and he is voting against the request.

Mrs. Hubley seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it with Mr. Bregoli voting No.

§

Mayor Koch made a motion to approve the June 7-8, 2018 Out of State Travel (Overnight) of Point Webster Middle School Grade 8 to New York City, New York. Mr. DeAmicis seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

New Business
Out of State Travel (Overnight)

§

There was no Additional Business.

Additional Business

§

Upcoming meetings were announced: Organizational Meeting, January 10 at 6:00 pm and Regular Meetings on January 10 and 24, 2018 at the Coddington Building at 6:30 pm.

Communications

Mrs. Hubley noted that the Seaside Stitchers and other knitters at the Kennedy Senior Center knitted over 250 hats, mittens, and scarves for Quincy Public Schools students in need. A thank you note will be sent on behalf of the School Committee.

Mayor Koch invited Dr. Alan Yacubian to appear at a future School Committee meeting to thank him for endowing a scholarship fund of \$400,000 for students at both high schools. The goal is for five students from each school to receive scholarships annually.

Mrs. Lebo suggested adding the impact of the MBTA closing the Wollaston station to the Health, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee.

Mrs. Mahoney suggested that the North Quincy High School mascot conversation be advanced in Policy Subcommittee and include Dr. Yacubian and Citywide PTO in the meeting.

§

Mr. Bregoli noted that all School Committee and Subcommittee meeting minutes are posted online at www.quincypublicschools.com.

Reports of
Subcommittees

Mayor Koch reviewed the Athletics Subcommittee meeting held on November 13, 2017. Athletic Directors Jean-Jacques Niamkey and Kevin Mahoney presented a review of Fall Athletics and looked forward to the Winter Athletics season.

Athletics
Subcommittee

As there were no corrections, the meeting minutes for the November 13, 2017 Athletics Subcommittee were approved as presented.

§

Ms. Isola reviewed the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meetings held on November 20 and 21, 2017. The Elementary School principals presented their School Improvement Plans and all plans were approved. Ms. Isola noted that all School Improvement Plans are posted on the Quincy Public Schools website.

Teaching & Learning
Subcommittee

As there were no corrections, the meeting minutes for both the November 20 and November 21, 2017 Teaching & Learning Subcommittee were approved as presented.

§

There was no Executive Session.

Executive Session

§

Ms. Isola (2010-2017) and Mrs. Mahoney (2006-2017) were recognized as this is their last meeting on the School Committee. Dr. DeCristofaro shared a special Inspire Quincy recognizing the accomplishments of both members and School Committee members thanked them for their leadership and Ms. Isola and Mrs. Mahoney were presented with commemorative chairs.

School Committee
Member Recognition

Mayor Koch, Mr. Bregoli, Mr. DeAmicis, Mrs. Hubley, and Mrs. Lebo all acknowledged the many contributions Ms. Isola and Mrs. Mahoney made to the students, staff, and families of the Quincy Public Schools.

§

Mrs. Hubley made a motion to adjourn for the evening at 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Isola and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Adjournment