

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – March 18, 2009

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

A regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 in the Atlantic Middle School. Present were Mrs. Jo-Ann Bragg, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, Mrs. Elaine Dwyer, Mr. Nicholas Puleo, Mr. Ron Mariano, Mr. Dave McCarthy, and Mayor Tom Koch, Chairman.

Regular Meeting

Chairman Presiding

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The Superintendent called the roll and all members were present. Also present were: Dr. Richard DeCristofaro, Secretary; Mrs. Tefta Burrelli, Clerk; Messrs. Mullaney, Mulvey, Murphy, Draicchio, Keith Segalla, Ms. Roberts, Powell, Hughes, and Dr. Sylvia Pattavina. Ms. Tracey Christello, Citywide and Mr. Paul Phillips, QEA.

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On a motion by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mrs. Bragg, the Committee approved the regular session minutes for March 11, 2009. The ayes have it.

Reg. Mins. Approved
3/18/2009

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Principal Maureen McNeil welcomed everyone to Atlantic Middle School. The first hour of this meeting was devoted to student recognition. The Atlantic School Choir sang the National Anthem and the Alphabet Song. Ms. Pat Dunne introduced the *Young Writers* editors. The All City Jazz Band, under the direction of Mr. David Carroll, played several selections. Students who participated and placed in the All State Musical Competition were recognized. Art work from both high schools is on display at the Crane Public Library. The Arts Festival at the Crane Public Library is scheduled to begin on May 4. Winners of the Boston Globe Scholastic were recognized and received Certificates of Recognition from the School Committee.

Atlantic Middle School
Student Recognition

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Ms. Pam Bonfiglioli, Ms. Margo Nelsamo, Mr. John Bonfiglioli, Ms. Nancy Davis, Mr. Jim McCarthy, Ms. Lynn Bailey and Tracey Christello asked that the Committee revisit the school calendar which they approved last week. This calendar had school beginning before Labor Day. Parents said they have paid and made reservations for that week and do not want to lose

Open Forum

their money. They didn't see any benefit beginning the school year before Labor Day.

Mr. Karl Roos spoke to the GIC plan and asked that the Mayor consider the savings he will realize by people freezing their raises.

Ms. Suzanne Early spoke about her two children, a third and fifth grader, who are dyslexic. Her third grader has improved but her fifth grader still cannot read. Her daughter, she said, is not being serviced. She has spoken with school officials and she feels nothing is being done. She wants help for her daughter.

Ms. Debbie Napstedt spoke to the Progress Reports for the high school. She claims they just say "passing" and this could mean a 65 or a 100. She couldn't tell which. She would like more definition.

At this time, Mrs. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mariano, to reconsider the approval of next year's school calendar which would begin before Labor Day. The ayes have it. After some discussion, Mrs. Dwyer made another motion, seconded by Mr. Mariano, to go back to the original calendar. This calendar will have school begin on September 8, 2009, after Labor Day. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

School Cal. 2009-2010
Reconsidered

New Calendar approved
Begins after Labor Day

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City Solicitor Jim Timmins did a power point presentation showing what Honeywell was supposed to do in each building and what they did do. Every year, the City has to come up with \$3 million. This is a self-funded program which will impact the budget and the school budget. He gave an example of the Wollaston Library. A permit was pulled for a roof for \$45,000. Honeywell charged the City \$242,000. The City has concerns about the costs that were assessed to the City.

Honeywell Update
By Messrs. Timmins &
Mr. Cunniff

He gave other examples -- North Quincy, a water heater which was installed near a water main gauge. Four new heaters that were hooked up to two old boilers. By the time the water goes from the new boilers through the old boilers, the water gets cold. There is no master engineering plan. At Broad Meadows, the salt marsh return pipes are rusting. The lights installed are not all the same model. At Beechwood Knoll, there are frozen univents, an engineering failure. They were installed on the northeast side. The flaps open and cold air comes in. Honeywell is supposed to monitor these. Mr. Timmins said that a lot of work has been poorly done. At Squantum, univents were replaced and a poor job was done. Mr. Timmins showed steam pipes that were filled with concrete and then capped.

Gary Cunniff meets every week with Honeywell. He stated that Honeywell keeps carrying things forward. There are communication issues and questions of confidence. In 2008 the City paid \$1.4 million. All payments are in excess of \$1 million

Mr. Timmins said he has contacted the Inspector General. They are re-viewing the Energy Savings contract. They will come out and provide help to Quincy. He is going to try and negotiate some issues. There has been productive results on some problems. Honeywell says that they did value billing--over a certain point you are going to realize savings.

Mrs. Bragg said she knows that a lot of work was done at the schools. She also knows they were there trying to fix problems. The Committee would like to be kept in the loop.

Mr. McCarthy said the Committee's request was a listing of what was completed and what wasn't and what to do about it. He thought Mr. Timmins was going to bring a punch list.

Mr. Cunniff said that 99% of the equipment has been installed but that he cannot sign off on a future savings, as it might not occur. His focus is that everything listed is installed in the buildings.

Mr. Puleo expressed concern for students who might get burned from the steam pipes with the cement caps. Mr. Cunniff said this only happened in one school.

Mr. Cunniff said given some time he could get a listing. Physically, they are there but there are problems with the functions.

Mr. Kevin Murphy added that there are ten buildings completed. A lot of the building are fine. He will do an assessment of custodial and maintenance.

Mrs. Mahoney thought that it was irresponsible that the Committee did not receive the information they requested. Mr. Timmins added that Mr. Cunniff is extraordinarily busy – working on the new high school, Central Middle School, and city buildings. This type of report is very complex. All of the information is being shared weekly with the people in the school department who do the work. The information is there. As far as getting these reports it is going to take some time.

Mrs. Dwyer said she would like to find out what Honeywell paid the contractors. She has been asking for a report since last September. She would like information school by school on what was done and what we're still doing.

Mayor Koch added that he thought this was an outrageous contract and goes against everything we do in public bidding. The City took a bad rap. He will continue to fight this issue for the taxpayers and to get the buildings right.

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Mr. Kevin Murphy reported that the auditorium at Sterling will be ready for the MCAS. He had a quick tour on Friday with the Superintendent. They installed a new batting cage at Lincoln Hancock. The security systems at Wollaston and Montclair are working fine. They are still working on the Squantum lab.

Bldgs. & Grounds

Mr. McCarthy asked if he could install the glass backboards over the summer at Point Webster.

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There was no new action by the Quincy High School Building Committee to report.

QHS Bldg. Committee

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Mrs. Bragg reported that they submitted the name of the Owners Project Manager to the SBA. They are still awaiting a reply.

Central Bldg. Committee

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The Quincy Public Schools Transitions presentation was tabled until the April 1 meeting.

Transitions Tabled

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Mrs. Bragg has called a Policy Subcommittee meeting for Wednesday, March 25 in the Superintendent's Conference Room at 30 p.m. to discuss recess and the Policy Manual.

Additional Business

Mrs. Mahoney called a Special Education Subcommittee meeting for Wednesday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Broad Meadows.

Superintendent DeCristofaro commended staff on the Coordinated Program Review. Many areas are examined by the Department of Education. The Special Education Department did very well. He commended the Director of Special Education, the teaching staff, and Dr. Pattavina. Quincy does a tremendous job in Special Education. The process is very difficult

and families need to know we are here for them.

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Mr. Mariano made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bragg, to take the GIC issue out of the Finance Committee and dispose of it. The ayes have it.

GIC Proposal Passes

Mr. Mariano said it's been around for many meetings and everyone expressed their concerns. They know for sure where the City is going to be with regards to health insurance. This will free up \$4 million for both the City and the Schools.

Mr. Mariano made a motion, seconded by Mr. Puleo to accept the GIC Proposal.

Mrs. Dwyer asked if there was a change as to who was going to get the \$300. Mayor Koch answered that anyone who is insurance eligible will receive it. The Mayor, his City Department Heads, and the staff in the Mayor's office will not get it including the receptionist and the secretary. Clerical that are non civil service and personnel in the law office will receive it. All department heads will not, his staff in the mayor's office will not, other clerical non union and non civil service will get it. It is built in there for non-union people in the city side.

Mrs. Dwyer said she didn't understand how the Committee could vote on it tonight. Mrs. Dwyer continued her questions. The memo of agreement that the Mayor wanted them to sign are not supposed to have anything to do with joining the GIC. Now, it's being called the GIC agreements.

At this time, Mrs. Bragg moved the question, seconded by Mr. Mariano. On a roll call vote to move the question, the motion passed 4-3. MRS. DWYER, MR. MARIANO and MR. MCCARTHY VOTED NO.

On the original motion to accept the GIC side agreements and sign them, the motion passed 5-2. MRS. DWYER and MR. MCCARTHY voted NO.

GIC Agreements Passed

Mrs. Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, that the equivalent of the \$300 for the Quincy school employees be submitted in our budget on the line that says "reserve for negotiations." Mr. Puleo made a point of order that the school budget can't be earmarked.

Mrs. Dwyer changed her motion to put on the school budget line "reserved for negotiations" the equivalent of the \$300 for the 1,562 school employees. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

\$300 equivalent on school budget

Mr. Puleo announced he would be waiving his \$300 increase and asked Mr. Mariano to earmark it for school textbooks. Mrs. Bragg, Mr. Mariano and

\$300 toward textbooks

Mrs. Mahoney joined Mr. Puleo.

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On a motion by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Puleo, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session at 10:14 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 7-0. The Committee did not return to Open Session.

Adjournment