

Quincy, MASSACHUSETTS – June 10, 2009

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Regular Meeting of the Quincy School Committee

Consistent with the provisions of Chapter 71, section 38N of the General Laws, the Quincy School Committee held a public hearing on its FY10 proposed budget on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall. All interested persons were given an opportunity to be heard.

Public Hearing

At the Public Hearing, Aliza Schneller, Edie Kabakoff, Ricardo Cordero, Elizabeth Favorito, Margaret O'Connor, Randy Boback, Aliza Marlor, Jack Kloskey, Aenab Tavakoli, Chris Chetwynd, Danielle Woods, Tracey Christello, Laurie Earl, and Kathy Swanson asked the Committee to keep the Foreign Language program at the middle schools. They spoke of their trips to France, how the program helped get them into college, and that the world is changing and students are going into an international market and need another language. If anything, they feel that the foreign language program should begin in elementary school. If French is taken out of the middle school foreign language program, some feel that this could deter people from moving to Quincy.

Mr. Bob Haley expressed his concern with the proposed school budget cuts. In 2008, the school budget was over 41% of the total City budget. In 2009, 35.5% went toward the schools. This year's cut is a significant step backwards. Mr. Haley stated that since Quincy is getting stimulus money and a large savings from joining the GIC, he can't understand why there isn't more money available for the schools.

Matt Lockwood Mullaney thanked those people who worked on the budget. He said if he were elected to the School Committee he would give back half of his salary (\$4,500) to restore the dues for the MASS which were cut. Mr. Roos said he sat through budget subcommittee meetings and saw that decisions were not made lightly. Services will be cut, fees will be increased, busing will be decreased, and new fees have been created. The burden will be borne by the working families of the schools. Some people will be laid off and some people will be getting \$300 and a 3% pay increase.

Tom Walters, Auto Body Instructor, spoke to the closing of the Auto Body Program at Quincy High School. He feels that this is a mistake. A number of his students are at-risk students. His program works with Karan Doran and the EVA program. His classes have repaired three vehicles for raffle, refurbished

a Honda Civic, repaired four school buses. He graduated nine students but was credited with only two. He asked that they reconsider eliminating this program.

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After the public hearing on the FY10 budget, the regular meeting of the Quincy School Committee began at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall. Present were Mrs. Jo-Ann Bragg, Mrs. Anne Mahoney, Mr. Ron Mariano, Mrs. Elaine Dwyer, Mr. Dave McCarthy, Mr. Nick Puleo and Mayor 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, Murphy, O'Brien, Draicchio, Keith Segalla, Ms. Roberts, Hughes, and Dr. Sylvia Pattavina; Donna Miosi, QHS Student Representative, Ms. Tracey Christello, Citywide and Mr. Paul Phillips, QEA. The members observed a moment of silence for the armed forces around the world.

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On a motion by Mr. Puleo, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee approved the regular and executive session minutes for May 20, 2009. The ayes have it.

Reg. & Exec. Session.
Approved 5/6/2009

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Well over 100 participants attended the Teacher Mentor Year End Celebration on June 2. The Superintendent credited Jen Fay-Beers, Colleen Roberts and Janet Powell for planning the event. A retirement luncheon for retirees was held on June 3. The average service of these retirees was 30 years. The high school graduations were outstanding. The Superintendent thanked Kevin Murphy and his staff and Ms. Kristin Powers and her staff, principals, security, and everyone who was involved in the graduations. The Golf Tournament will be held on June 25. This is a Partnership event and benefits the Technology Department. The Special Olympics was held with over 100 students and staff participating. This is held twice a year. The Technology team at Quincy High School held the *Trends in Transportation* event. The Committee will receive a copy of the *Goals Set, Goals Met* booklet.

Supts. Report

The Superintendent introduced Jim Hennessy, new principal of the Wollaston Elementary School, and Maura Tanaglia, the new Director of Student Support Services. He also recognized Susan Troy, retiring principal of the Wollaston Elementary school and Janet Powell, retiring Sr. Director of Student Support Services.

Staff Recognition

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Mark Woods, Kevin Lynch, Stephen Linsky, and Lynn Bailey spoke to the cut in busing. Several bus routes will be eliminated and students will be crossing several very busy streets. They will have to hire crossing guards to get students across the main streets. They asked what safety precautions the Committee will be taking. At Merymount, adding more cars to drop off students, will result in mayhem.

Open Forum

Connie Driscoll, Park Department, expressed the Park Department's displeasure at the comment made at the last School Committee regarding grass cutting at North Quincy High School. They felt that it could have been handled with a phone call.

Paul Phillips, QEA President, said he was disappointed that the School Committee and the QEA couldn't come to an agreement and accommodation. The QEA, he said, did make a proposal. However, they do have a contract and both have to live with it.

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On a motion by Mrs. Dwyer, seconded by Mrs. Bragg, the Committee took out of order the report on the FY10 budget. The ayes have it.

Mr. Mariano said there are some major concerns about the budget the Committee is proposing. The Committee began by trying to find the \$1.38 million to get back to a level budget. They made the following recommendations they think does the best possible job that can be done in the City of Quincy. They would have loved to have had an agreement with the QEA, but they didn't. The state budget is fraught with uncertainty. They are using \$5 million of Federal money to make this budget work.

FY2010 Budget
Mr. Mariano reports

They made some difficult decisions. It generated \$635,000 to go back into the educational component of the school system. They heard about the Foreign Language Program tonight. They tried to strike a balance with these activities because they also contribute to make a well rounded students.

The student cost of breakfast and lunches was raised from 60 cents to \$1.00 and lunches from \$2.00 to \$2.25, the QPS Student Transportation mileage policy was raised from 3/4 mile to a 1 mile limit, the Transportation Rental Fee was raised, the Athletic User fees for students were raised, Rental Expenses were raised, there is now a \$15 Athletic User Fee for Middle School Athletics, and a \$20 High School Activity Fee for clubs, and the After School Program Elementary Rental Fee at \$30.00. This will bring back a total of \$635,000 to the budget.

Mr. Puleo and Mrs. Bragg came up with some recommendation that were discussed. The Committee removed \$15,000 from the Professional Discretionary Fund line. The Committee reduced the AP Exam line by \$30,000 and reduced

two office security aides in the Non-Academic Aides line.

With the money added back, the Superintendent gave his add backs:

- 10 Teachers
- 6 Middle school foreign language teachers
- 3.5 Literacy Teachers
- 1.0 Health Teachers
- .5 Media Teacher
- 1.0 Phys Ed Teacher
- 0.5 Art Teacher
- 0.5 Music Teacher
- 3.0 Custodians
- 12 Unemployment

Mr. Mariano thanked those employees of the Quincy Public Schools that did forgo their wage increases. They made a difficult job a little easier.

On a motion by Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. McCarthy the Committee approved the Budget Subcommittee's recommendation of the FY2010 budget.

Mrs. Bragg added that the previous administration made a choice to pass on any unemployment expenses to the school department if there were any layoffs. This remained and contributed to another \$1million. She asked Mayor Koch if the finances of the City improve to provide some additional money to the school system so programs can be restored.

On a roll call vote, the motion to approve the FY2010 Budget passed unanimously 7-0.

FY 2010 Budget
Approved

On a motion by Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mrs. Bragg, the Committee approved the Budget Subcommittee minutes for May 19, 27 and June 3, 9, 2009. The ayes have it.

Subcommittee Minutes
Approved

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Mr. Kevin Murphy reported that the carpenters have completed computer labs in Montclair and Snug Harbor. They are now completing work orders. They have hired a professional plumber. The electricians are wiring computer labs. They are repairing light fixtures at the Lincoln Hancock pool and are repairing roof vents at Broad Meadows. He thanked those people who worked on the graduations.

Bldg. Update

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Mrs. Dwyer reported that the next scheduled meeting for the new Quincy High School in June 26. They will be meeting all summer. They are working on Saturdays to get on schedule.

New QHS
Mrs. Dwyer to Report

Mr. McCarthy asked that Mrs. Dwyer check into the concrete dust on Russell Park. She will check to make sure the streets are washed down.

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There will be a meeting of the Central Building Committee within the next two weeks. There is no report to date.

New Central
Mrs. Bragg & Mrs.
Mahoney report

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Mr. Dave McCarthy reported that he had met with Mayor Koch and they have put together the make up of a team. They discussed open enrollment and where numbers have risen and the concerns this presents. They decided on the following people for the Ad-Hoc Task Team:

Open Enrollment
Ad Hoc Task Team

- Mayor/Chairman of School Committee
- Vice Chairman of School Committee
- Committee members
- Supt./SLT Representatives
- High School Council Representation
- Middle School Council Representation
- School Faculty
- City Council/Education Chair and Student Representation.

Members Selected

He asked the members to email him or the Mayor with any comments. The Superintendent will gather information for the team regarding enrollment, district lines, grade configuration, class size, building capabilities, budget impact, and other pertinent facts for the Fall Presentation 2009.

Mrs. Bragg gave the names of Tracey Christello and Gina Scanlan who are interested in serving on the Task Team.

Mr. Mariano inquired about the proposed timeline. The Superintendent thought this could run over the next two school years. The Ad Hoc Committee will meet with the Superintendent and then make recommendations to the Committee.

The Mayor said the Task Force will meet during summer and come back in September to begin the process. There will be a number of opportunities for the community to participate. They will hold public hearings.

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On a motion by Mr. Puleo, seconded by Mrs. Dwyer, the Committee approved a trip to Canobie Lake Park, NH for Broad Meadows on June 18, 2009. The ayes have it.

Out of State Travel
BM to Canobie Pk

On a motion by Mr. Puleo, seconded by Mrs. Bragg, the Committee approved a trip for the North Quincy ROTC to New Hampshire from June 30 to July 2, 2009. The ayes have it.

NQ ROTC to NH

On a motion by Mr. Puleo, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee approved a trip to Canobie Lake Park, NH for the Bernazzani School on June 18, 2009. The ayes have it.

BERN to Canobie Pk.

On a motion by Mr. Puleo, seconded by Mrs. Dwyer, the Committees approved a trip to Canobie lake Park, NH for the Montclair School on June 18, 2009. The ayes have it.

MONT to Canobie Pk.

On a motion by Mr. Puleo, seconded by Mrs. Dwyer, the Committee approved a trip to Canobie Lake Park, NH for Parker School on June 11, 2009. The ayes have it.

PR to Canobie Pk

On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mrs. Dwyer, the Committee accepted a donation of \$67.26 from the Faith Lutheran Church Sunday School Children for homeless students. The ayes have it.

Gift Homeless Students

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Mr. Mullaney presented the following transfers:

Budget

Transfer \$85,000 from Natural Gas to	Gasoline	\$32,000
	Transportation/Rentals/SPED	\$53,000

Transfer \$96,400 from SPED Instructional Equipment to:		
	Gasoline	\$20,000
	Transportation Rentals/SPED	\$30,000
	Insurance	\$25,000
	Legal Fees	\$10,200
	Various Expenses (\$5,000 each)	\$11,200

On a motion by Mrs. Bragg, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, the Committee approved the transfers with the stipulation that any lines over \$7,000 to be forwarded to the Committee for an individual vote. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Transfers Approved

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Mrs. Bragg referred a policy for "Classroom Observations" to the Policy Subcommittee. Ms. Todd will refer a draft to the Committee.

Classroom Observations to Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Bragg recognized Betty Swanton who was written up in the *Patriot Ledger*. Mrs. Swanton has been a long time supporter of the Quincy Public Schools. She received the *Joseph M. Smith Consumer Award* from the Mass

League of Community Health Centers.

Mrs. Mahoney attended the Team Robotics Dinner at Quincy High School. She thanked Proctor and Gamble for their support. There were seven students that with distinction, one with high honors, three with honors. Twenty four students received scholarships.

Communications

Quincy Elks Scholarship night was held and 24 students received scholarships from the Elks.

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The Committee noted the following resignations:

Resignations

Stephanie Acheson U. Maria Cash

Teachers

The Committee noted the following leaves of absence:

Leaves of Absence

Kelly Brumleve Kathryn Burns

Teachers

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On a motion by Mrs. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Puelo, the Committee adjourned for the evening at 9:00 p.m. There was no executive session. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Adjournment