

**Quincy Public Schools Curriculum Committee Minutes**

**Board Office Conference Room #231**

**January 11, 2012 – 5:30 p.m.**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Committee members present:** Ann Behrens, Zigrida Brown, Mary Christensen, Jan Cory, Steve Krause, Jeff Mays, Jim Rubottom, Jody Steinke, Patricia Viniard.

**Committee member(s) absent:** Cindy Crow.

**Board members, staff and others:** David Adam, Anne Cashman, Christie Dickens, Krys Duesterhaus, Laurie Fiorenza, Lonny Lemon, Jeanne Morrison, Gus Rieckhoff, Julie Schuckman, Connie Thomas.

**1. Call to order**

Steve Krause, committee chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**2. Information provided to Committee**

A. Early Childhood Report. Director of Early Childhood Julie Schuckman presented data collected on this year's kindergarten students.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Results for Literacy</b>		
	<b><i>% of students meeting/exceeding</i></b>	<b><i>% of students below/approaching</i></b>
Students at Risk / No Quincy EC	48%	52%
Students Attending EC	62%	38%
District Totals	65%	35%
Number of students represented in report: - At Risk Students: 98 - EC Students: 294 - District Kindergarten Students: 550		

The data clearly shows the effectiveness of the Early Childhood program. Student achievement was based on where they are on the assessment wall using the TROLL as the main assessment, along with other assessment tools. The "At Risk" designation was based on free/reduced lunch status. With the committee's support for this type of reporting, Julie will continue to collect data; she noted that mobility will impact the results over time.

Committee members also discussed the status of state payments to the district for Early Childhood and expressed frustration with the state's failure to honor its commitment to fund the program. Julie is in regular contact with various offices at the state level, including our state senator and representative.

B. District Improvement Plan (DIP). Trish said that part of the process in preparing the DIP is to obtain input from various stakeholders including teachers. She has shared the draft with teachers (disseminated at building level through principals), the ROE superintendent and assistant

superintendent, and PTA leaders; the review and discussion of the plan by the Curriculum Committee provides an opportunity for community input. The DIP will be presented to the Board of Education at the January meeting. Discussion items regarding the DIP were as follows:

- The plan includes two main goals—one to increase literacy achievement, and another to increase math achievement. For each goal, strategies/activities for three groups—students, staff, and parents/guardians—are included.
- One of the new strategies/activities under the Parent Involvement section states that summer school will be considered “mandatory” and not “optional.” There is also a plan to have Central Office communicate early in the year (January) with parents/guardians of K-6 students identified as “Below” on the literacy assessment wall. Information regarding attendance, student progress and potential summer school enrollment will be communicated to parents at this time. Trish said these new strategies/activities came about partly in response to the consultations with Dr. Murphy. Central Office administrators felt this would be a good starting point for collecting data on how attendance affects achievement. Committee members expressed their support for this pro-active approach.
- Member Krause noted that district demographics over the last few years show an increase in the number of poverty students and a decrease in the number of district FTE’s (or “Full Time Equivalent” staff members). Despite this, he noted, the district has been able to maintain a certain level of growth (even though the growth may not be keeping pace with ever-increasing standards).
- Demographic data show a drop in the graduation rate. Jody Steinke said that is due to a change in the way the rate is calculated; the graduation rate dropped state-wide due to this change. Although truancy rates have improved over the past two years, Lonny anticipates this to increase due to a change in the state criteria.
- Member Mays questioned whether the \$8 million budget reduction listed as a challenge factor can be supported. He suggested using a figure that is tied to the audit report if a budget reduction amount is included in the plan.
- Mandatory 9<sup>th</sup> hour at QJHS and QHS has been listed as a new strategy. A data report on the after-school program will be on next month’s agenda as part of the initiatives update. Junior High received a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant this fall, and just started its after-school program in late November. More information on that will be reported at the February meeting as well.
- Trish noted the inclusion of information provided recently by the district’s food service director: Presently, 66% of QPS Free Meal-eligible students are in a “food insecure” population (which includes four groups—food stamps, homeless, Head Start, and foster child).

### 3. **Recommend to the Board of Education for Action**

N/A

4. **Consider any other matter relating to the Curriculum needs or concerns of the District**

Member Mays said that Knapheide Manufacturing is hosting a group of ACT representatives on Friday, January 13. Member Rubottom will get more information to Central Office Administration regarding this opportunity.

5. **Questions and comments from the Public**

6. **Adjourn: 6:45 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 15 – 5:00 p.m.**