

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

April 21, 2022

4:30 p.m. – Room 214

Minutes

Those in attendance: Shelley Arns, Rachael Petty, Kim Dinkheller, Jess Thorsen, Janet Silas, Dennis Williams, Emily Pool, Cheryl Vogler, Jody Steinke, Deb Husar, Macy Ferguson-Smith.

1. Call to Order

2. Committee Discussion Items

• **QHS Valedictorian/Salutatorian**

Jody Steinke, Quincy Senior High School principal presented a PowerPoint on QHS Valedictorian and Salutatorian selections from the past 5 years. Jody pointed out that typically just tenths or hundredths of a point separate the valedictorian and the salutatorian, and many times the top ten graduates in the class. He noted that most students ranked 1-5 in the past 5 years had taken the same courses and had received all As. What separated some students from the others was taking Driver Education with Quincy Driving School, PE Waiver, scheduling difficulties and participating in Marching Band or Orchestra. Students often choose to not take an elective or vocational course because they are not grade-weighted. There is concern about the toll on student mental from playing the game to achieve the top spot at graduation. In most cases valedictorian and salutatorian status does not impact college admission or scholarships, as those decisions are usually made before valedictorian and salutatorian honors are determined. As of 2012, only 19 per cent of colleges and universities gave class rank “considerable importance” in the admissions process (Hoover). 50 per cent of high schools no longer report class rank (NASSP). Jody is suggesting eliminating the top two honors, while continuing to offer magna cum laude and summa cum laude recognition to high achieving students. The next step is to share this information with district parents sometime this summer. If this change is made it would start with an incoming freshman or sophomore class.

• **QPS -English Language Learners Program/Services**

Kim provided information on the identification process for English Language Learners and the services provided.

- Identification – Is a language other than English spoken at home? Does your child speak a language other than English?
- ELL Screening – State approved WIDA Screener for speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- Identified ELLs – Traditional Program of Instruction (TPI) –
 - Connection to EL Student Family Liaison – Mike McKinley
 - Determine EL support needs (academic/social)
 - Individual ELL Action Plan developed – Build goals

- Re-visit annually and involve parents, EL Liaison, the student, teacher, and support staff.
- ACCESS Testing – Results determine continuation of the EL identification and services. Students must score an overall 5 on the test to test out, and then they will continue to be monitored for a few years by the state.

- **Course Proposal -Technical Theatre Elective – QHS**

Jody Steinke presented a new course proposal to the committee. The course is Technical Theatre and is an independent study elective course. The course would be offered in the 2022-2023 school year and will offer a classroom component and require students to participate in several productions each year. The course will provide a way for students who are not necessarily actors or musicians to be involved in theatre and music. Member Arns asked for a motion to recommend to the Board to add Technical Theatre as an option to the Quincy Senior High School course catalog. A motion was made by member Williams and seconded by member Pool.

3. Recommend to Board of Education for Action

- Recommend the Quincy Senior High School Technical Theatre Course Proposal to the Board for approval.

4. Consider any other matter relating to the District Improvement Process

- none

5. Questions and Comments from the Public

- none

Members Arns asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by member Silas and seconded by member Williams to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 pm.

- **Next meeting June 16, 2022**