

## DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

March 10, 2022

4:30 p.m. – Room 214

### Minutes

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

#### 1. Call to Order

#### 2. Committee Discussion Items

- **New Course Proposal (Pre-Algebra) - QHS**

Jody Steinke, Quincy Senior High School principal presented a proposal for a new math course, Pre-Algebra. The course is for students in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade math at QHS who often struggle in Algebra I. This often results in multiple math failures during their four years at QHS. Over the past two years over 30 students failed Algebra I each semester, in part due to lack of basic math skills. The course as proposed will count as a math credit rather than as an elective. Member Vogler voiced concern over giving a math credit for a remedial course and she felt it should be offered as an elective. There was discussion about this, and other members felt that the students most in need may not take the course if it was offered as an elective. Jody and Kim Dinkheller, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment will reach out to other districts to see if they are offering math credit for a pre-algebra class.

Board Member Shelley Arns asked for a motion to accept the Pre-Algebra course proposal and recommend to the Board for approval. Shelley took a vote by roll call, the members voted as follows:

Member Arnold – Yes

Member Bailey – Yes

Member Petty – Yes

Member Williams – Yes

Member Silas – Yes

Member Arns – Yes

- **Review February Report – Mid-Year Measures of Improvement**

Kim reviewed the Mid-Year Measures of Improvement Student Growth Report for students PreK-8, with committee members.

- ECFC: Baseline Data (Beginning of Year) to Late Fall Student Growth Data
  - Letter ID and Number ID Pre-K 3 years, Pre-K 4 years and Transitional Kindergarten
- NWEA MAP Growth Assessment: Student Growth Data
  - Math and Reading Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Science – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Illinois State Assessment (SAT (11), PSAT (9-10), Illinois Assessment of Readiness (3-8), Illinois Science Assessment (5,8,11), and DLM-AA (Alternate Assessment)
  - Spring 2021 Data will be finalized in April 2022

Kim also reviewed Student Discipline data, comparing 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22. There was discussion on the criteria for a Safe School referral. Member Williams suggested involving community members and agencies in the Safe School referral process.

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

- *Recommend the Quincy Senior High School Pre-Algebra Proposal to the Board for approval.*

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

- Dennis Williams, Program Director, Bella Ease, discussed a new 3-year grant Bella Ease was recently awarded.

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

- Macey Ferguson-Smith expressed concern over the language used to describe the students identified as needing to take the Pre-Algebra course. She said she would discuss this with Jody Steinke.

Members Arns asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Pat Arnold and seconded by Dennis Williams to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 pm.

- **Next meeting April 21, 2022**