Quincy Public School Curriculum Committee Meeting  
Board Office Conference Room # 231  
July 9, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

A. Roll Call of members by the Committee Secretary
Sheldon Bailey, committee chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
Members present: Members Christensen, Vogler, Rubottom, Teter and Zeidler, and
the following members were absent: Arnold. Whereupon the Chairman determined
there were enough members present for a quorum.

B. Recognition of Visitors
Board members, staff and others present: Roy Webb, Mike Troup, Carol Frericks,
Jody Steinke, Dan Sparrow, Deb Husar and Jeff Kerkhoff.

Approval of Agenda
Chairman Bailey asked if there were any items to be added to the agenda, and there
were none.

2. Questions and Comments from the Public
Jeff Kerkhoff commented on June 24, 2018 Quincy Herald-Whig article on the Center
for Creative Learning Social Science classes. He also provided articles on Calvin
Coolidge and America’s Culture War in Education.

3. Committee Discussion Items
A. District Improvement Team – Spring Student Growth Report
Carol Frericks reviewed the Fall – Winter – Spring 2017-2018 Student Growth Report.
She reviewed the district goals for growth and achievement and clarified the difference
as well as the relationship between the two. There was discussion on Special
Education students’ data and the impact that it has on the results. Carol explained
that the District Improvement Team looks at all subgroup data. It was noted that 9th
and 10th grade students are measured by course not grade level. All students in 9th
and 10th graders are not represented in this data, as students in advanced classes
often reach the highest achievement level on the test and cannot demonstrate growth.
Carol reviewed the MAP Executive Summary slides. Carol shared that it is hoped that
the new K-5 model will help to reverse the dip previously seen when students made a
transition from K-3 to Baldwin. There was discussion on PSAT for 9th and 10th graders
next year, PARCC and SAT for 11th graders.
Carol noted that the 8th grade students surpassed the national normative data in
math and that this progress should be celebrated. She commented that the district
curriculum and lessons are aligned to the standards and teachers are more
comfortable with the standards-aligned lessons and tests, we see an increase in
scores. Carol shared that this year 82% of the teachers surveyed said that their
lessons are aligned to the standards for math and ELA, and 52% for science. There
was discussion on the change in the MAP assessment at 2nd grade and the impact
that has on students’ scores. Special Education IEPs and the diagnosis of learning
disabilities were also discussed. There was discussion on the presence of an historical
assessment for the district. ISAT provided data for 14 (1999-2013) years and was replaced by PARCC, we also have ACT data, but students are now taking the SAT. It was noted that our demographics have changed, and this prompted discussion on where to invest our resources. Providing intense interventions in Pre-K and K was suggested. It was mentioned that reading at grade level by grade 3 and proficiency in math by grade 5 are indicators of which students will graduate from high school.

**B. Valedictorian Qualifications**

Jody Steinke, Quincy Senior High School principal, provided QHS class rank data for a three-year period which illustrated that the difference between students ranked as number one and number ten is very small. Jody shared that some students avoid taking classes that might better prepare them for college in order to increase their GPA. Jody stated that the district should look at whether or not we want to continue recognizing valedictorian and salutatorian. The district can continue to recognize high-achieving students with summa and magna cum laude honors at graduation. The recommendation to recognize summa and magna cum laude honors at graduation was made by a curriculum task force in April of 2014. The committee and the School Board adopted this recommendation but the Board agreed to continue to name a valedictorian and salutatorian. Chairman Bailey would like more information before making another recommendation to the Board regarding valedictorian and salutatorian. It was noted that class rank, not being named valedictorian or salutatorian, matters for college admission. There was discussion on when to implement this type of change if it is approved and how to present this to the students, parents and the community.

**C. Illinois Report Card**

The state has identified Quincy Junior High School subgroup(s) that need additional academic support. Dan Sparrow, Quincy Junior High principal noted that students have been identified and supports have been in place, and QJHS continues to work to improve their academic achievement. Dan commented that growth in the subgroups is stagnant but their truancy rates have gone down. He noted that they focus on MAP results as they are immediate. There was discussion on test fatigue after MAP testing prior to PARCC testing. A final determination will be made in October. They will look at the data they have and combine this with PARCC data. Superintendent Webb recommended they continue to focus on MAP as their key assessment for individual and whole group instruction. It was noted that the state has not named the subgroup(s). The learning labs at QJHS as well the new K-5 model were both recognized as factors that can contribute to success for students in grades 6-8. The after-school program was also cited as a contributing factor to increased PARCC scores.

4. **Recommend to the Board of Education for Action:**  
   None

5. **Consider any other matter relating to the curriculum needs or concerns of the district**  
   None

6. **Adjourn** – 6:45 pm
Next Meeting – August 13, 2018 – 5:00 p.m. RM 231 BOE