

Quincy Public Schools Curriculum Committee Minutes
Board Office Conference Room #231
March 9, 2015

Committee members present: Debby Cashman, Jan Zeidler, Cheryl Vogler, Jim Rubottom, Stephanie Erwin, Lauren Kiest

Committee members absent: Jan Leimbach, Jan Cory, Sheldon Bailey, Denette Kuhlman

Board members, staff and others: Kim Dinkheller, Jeff Kerkhoff, Julie Stratman, Ed Husar, Carol Frericks, Jody Steinke, Carol Nichols, Scott Douglas, Dan Sparrow, Melanie Schrand, WGEM and KHQA Reporters

1. Call to order

Stephanie Erwin called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

2. Committee Discussion Items

A. Topics Raised by Committee Members

- **Retention Update** – Carol Frericks and Julie Stratman provided an update on Student Retention. They noted that students are tracked individually by a designated building level team, and that progress reports on intervention/acceleration are provided to parents and administration. Reports to administration and Curriculum Committee are given without student identification. They pointed out that students are considered for retention if they are one or more years behind in ELA and/or Math. Student Growth data will be monitored at least once in the fall, winter and spring. This information will be communicated to parents as needed, and at Fall and Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences. If retention is recommended for a student, teachers will meet with parents and discuss the individual situation regarding the retention plan for the student, and a parent sign off form is completed. There was discussion on whether the district should have authority to prevent students from being promoted if retention is recommended, even if the parents disagree. Carol noted that Quincy Public School (QPS) policy says we cannot provide social promotion. A retention update will continue to be provided every quarter as previously requested by the committee.

Carol noted that intervention/acceleration is available during the day at all schools. Also, extended day/extended year intervention/acceleration is available at all schools for the first time this school year.

- **Textbook Inventory Update** – Julie stated that K-6 is still working on their textbook inventory. She noted they have lots of guided reading material to catalogue, and they are taking the extra time to organize materials to facilitate the transition from 7 to 5 elementary schools. She stated she will present the K-6 textbook inventory information at the April 13th meeting. Member Kiest revisited providing a copy of QPS textbooks to the Quincy Public Library. There

was further discussion on digital vs hard copy options for textbooks. Carol noted that the QPS library system can now catalogue all of the district textbooks.

B. Update on Assessment Inventory – Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Cheryl Vogler stated that the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Assessment Inventory and Grading Practices Survey will close this Friday, March 13, 2015. It was suggested that a reminder be sent to all teachers, asking them to complete the survey if they have not done so already. The Assessment Inventory CAC subcommittee will meet again on March 23rd and the Assessment Inventory CAC committee will meet again on March 31st. Cheryl noted she has received feedback from teachers stating they felt there was not enough space provided in the comment section on the survey to adequately express what they wanted to say. It was suggested that teachers be instructed to share any additional comments they might have with any task force representative.

C. Textbook Adoption

Julie stated that the proposed *Glencoe Math Accelerated, Course 1 Curriculum* has been available to view in her office for the past month. Julie mentioned the desire to provide a more rigorous course for 6th grade Accelerated Math, and also to align with the accelerated courses currently being taught in 7th and 8th grade. Member Erwin asked for a motion from the committee to recommend the proposed *6th Grade Glencoe Accelerated Math Curriculum* to the Board for approval at the April 22, 2015 meeting. Member Rubottom made a motion to approve and all committee members agreed.

D. Rising Star Continuous Improvement Team – Second Quarter Report

Carol and Julie presented the *Student Growth Report – Fall to Winter* PowerPoint to all those in attendance. Carol noted that the focus has shifted from a student *meeting or not meeting* to *how much have students grown*. Julie noted that the district goal states that data on students with at least 90% attendance will be considered, but for the purpose of this presentation 100% of the students are represented in this data. Carol reviewed the Common Assessments (CA) and the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment that are used to measure student growth in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. Carol provided an explanation of the **Rasch Unit (RIT)** and how it is used to measure student growth. Carol and Julie stated that they would like to see MAP implemented in grades K-10, it is currently being used 3-8. Currently MAP is being piloted at Adams Elementary School, K-3. MAP testing provides a consistent tool that can be used with students, and the data can be compared quarterly and year to year to determine student growth. Teachers using MAP feel it provides a valuable resource as a learning continuum. There was discussion on how this information is presented to parents. The MAP test results are available within 24 hours for teachers and they can then be communicated to parents. Parents are provided an overview and explanation of the MAP data prior to their child taking the MAP test for the first time. It was noted that there was steady growth in Math and ELA at all levels from fall to winter, as represented in the *Student Growth Report – Fall to Winter* PowerPoint.

3. Recommend to the Board of Education for Action

- Approval of the proposed 6th *Grade Glencoe Math Accelerated Curriculum*

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

- Carol confirmed that the Project Lead The Way course *Bio-Medical Science*, is a grade weighted course.

5. Questions and Comment from the Public – In response to a question, Carol noted that comparing MAP data from spring to fall can provide teachers with an accurate picture of how much students have retained over the summer break.

6. Adjourn: 5:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 13, 2015

RM 231