

Quincy Public School Curriculum Committee Meeting
Board Office Conference Room # 231
January 11, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

A. Roll Call of members by the Committee Secretary

Sandi Rose, committee vice-chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Vice-Chairman Rose directed the Committee Secretary to call the roll. On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arnold, Cashman, Rose, Rubottom, Teter, Vogler, and Zeidler; and the following members were absent: Member Bailey. Whereupon the Chairman determined a quorum was present.

B. Public Comment

Member Rose also asked if there were any topics to be added to the agenda and there were none.

Board members, staff and others present: Carol Frericks, Julie Stratman, Carol Nichols, Dan Sparrow, Jen Drew, Jody Steinke, Michaela Fray, Kim Dinkheller, Trudy Gay, Jeff Kerkhoff and Deborah Husar (Quincy Herald Whig)

2. Committee Discussion Items

A. Curriculum Proposals for 2016-2017

Quincy Junior High School (QJHS) - Dan Sparrow, QJHS Principal, and Kim Dinkheller, QJHS Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction, outlined the required courses and the proposed exploratory quarterly programs. It was noted that these courses help to provide a continuum of learning for grades 6-8 in the new middle school model. The required courses include ELA, math, social studies, science and physical education/health. The exploratory program will include courses in art, music, computer science, and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses, *Design and Modeling*, and *Automation and Robotics*. Two new proposed exploratory courses were also presented, *College and Career Readiness* (8th grade), and a PLTW course, *Medical Detectives* (6th grade). The cost associated with these courses was also discussed. QJHS students can also be recommended for one or more of the following:

- Math Enrichment
- Focused ELA Study Skills
- Reading Enrichment
- Learning Lab
- Honors Courses

Students may also choose from Chorus, Band and Orchestra. There was discussion on retaining art at the 8th grade level, as well as the planned expansion of course offerings in art for grades 9-12, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. Enrichment versus acceleration was also discussed as it relates to students transitioning from Baldwin to QJHS.

Quincy Area Vocational Technical Center (QAVTC) – A proposal for QAVTC to offer blended learning classes for the 2016-2017 school year was presented. These classes are being proposed as a way to reduce travel time and scheduling conflicts for area students who attend QAVTC. It was proposed to deliver course content through a web-based curriculum delivery system to a student’s home school during a structured class time with electronic interface between the student and instructor via email or live discussion/chat. The course content would be supplemented with a limited number of full-day structured lab days held at QAVTC, possibly two full school days per quarter. QAVTC/West Central Region Board of Control (comprised of the superintendents of the ten member districts served by QAVTC) has given Board approval to QAVTC director Mark Pfleiger to move forward with this for next year. It was noted that the costs associated with the development of this curriculum will be built into the 2016-2017 QAVTC budget with support from West Central Region Career and Technical Education Grant funding.

B. Textbook Adoption Report

Quincy Senior High School (QHS) – Jody Steinke, QHS Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction introduced textbook information for *AP American History*. He noted there are three options available for *AP American History*, a textbook, online electronic access or a combination of both. He also shared that this textbook is widely used in AP US History, and is recommended by the College Board. The costs for all three options were discussed. The *AP American History* textbook will be available to review in Carol Frericks’ office for the next 30 days.

Quincy Junior High School (QJHS) – Kim Dinkheller introduced textbook information, as well as associated costs for QJHS social studies courses. These included, *Geography Alive!*, *Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States*, and *History Alive!*. These will also be available for review in Carol’s office for the next 30 days.

Textbook Purchases – QHS and QJHS – Kim and Jody also shared information regarding requests for additional copies of already adopted textbooks. These include, for Social Emotional Learning, *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, and *6 Important Decisions*; also, for English II Honors, *Shakespeare’s MacBeth*. Carol pointed out that the QPS Foundation will provide funds for the purchase of these additional books through a specific donation for this purpose.

Carol also advised the committee that the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) team has been conducting an inventory of current science resources, and is piloting an online learning management system with NGSS materials, as well as standards-aligned grading and reporting tools, during the second semester of this school year. The learning management system could serve as a web-based secure portal for student, teacher and parent access for online learning resources. A proposal for additional science materials will be forthcoming in the next few months.

3. Recommend to the Board of Education for Action

Member Rose asked for a motion to recommend to the Board to approve the curriculum proposals for QJHS for 2016-2017. A motion was made by member Rubottom and seconded by member Arnold.

Member Rose asked for a motion to recommend to the Board to approve the curriculum proposal for QAVTC for 2016-2017. A motion was made by member Rubottom and seconded by member Arnold.

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

Carol asked member Cashman if the previous questions and concerns brought to her by parents regarding Baldwin accelerated students transitioning to QJHS had been addressed. She stated that they had. There was further discussion on providing additional forums for parents, teachers and students to address the transition.

Member Arnold commented on the JA Career Fair that took place at QJHS on November 24, 2015. She shared what a positive experience it was for her stating how impressed she was with how engaged the students were and she complimented the team responsible for organizing the Career Fair.

Member Zeidler provided positive feedback on Quincy Conference 2.0 which was held on January 4, 2015. There was additional discussion on the future of Quincy Conference.

5. Questions and comments from the public

Jeff Kerkhoff distributed 2 articles to those present. He also commented on the curriculum proposals presented this evening. Board member Nichols commented on the importance of teachers determining which reference system they will use. There was also discussion on a librarian for QJHS and providing keyboarding for elementary students. Trudy Gay asked how Black History is represented in the new textbooks that are being proposed. Kim Dinkheller stated that it is infused throughout the whole textbook.

6. Adjourn – 6:20 p.m.

Next Meeting – February 8, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. RM 231 BOE