

Quincy Public School Curriculum Committee Meeting
Board Office Conference Room # 231
July 11, 2016 – 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. Chairman Bailey 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, Rubottom, Teter and Zeidler; and the following members were absent: Members Rose, Vogler. Whereupon the Chairman determined a quorum was present.

B. Public Comment

Member Bailey also asked if there were any topics to be added to the agenda and there were none. The agenda was approved.

Board members, staff and others present: Julie Stratman, Carol Frericks, Roy Webb, Deb Husar, Michaela Fray, Kim Dinkheller, Mary Christensen, Jeff Kerkhoff, and Deborah Husar (Quincy Herald Whig), Jeremy Culver (WGEM)

Carol Frericks introduced all the guests at the meeting as well as Mary Christensen, as the proposed new Curriculum Committee member who will provide teacher representation on the committee. Jan Zeidler, current committee member providing teacher representation, has retired, and she will replace Debby Cashman as a community member on the committee. Sheldon explained the process for adding new members to the Curriculum Committee, noting that the proposal to add Mary to the Curriculum Committee will be brought before the Board of Education for approval at the next meeting on July 27th. Sheldon also noted that the Curriculum Development Guide has been updated since the last meeting and he asked committee members to review the guide in preparation for discussion at the next Curriculum Committee meeting.

2. Questions and Comments from the Public

Jeff Kerkhoff distributed 3 articles to those present, and he provided comments on these articles. He stated that he felt that *citizen readiness* should be added to the mission statement for the district. He also commented on Public Law 108-447 which requires *federally funded educational institutions to hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17th*. Mr. Kerkhoff asked for and received a copy of the Curriculum Development Guide. He also commented on math courses that embed concepts from other courses, such as Algebra and Geometry.

3. Committee Discussion Items

A. Rising Star Continuous Improvement Team – Spring Report

Carol and Julie Stratman provided a grade by grade review of the Student Growth Report Fall 2015 – Winter 2016 – Spring 2016, and they noted that this report shows how QPS students are growing and how they compare to normative data. QPS students are showing growth and in most cases closing the gap between district scores and normative data. Julie clarified that this report documents every student

not just those that have achieved 90 percent attendance, as stated in the district goal of *75 percent of K-12 students with at least 90 percent attendance will meet or exceed grade level student growth goals in math and English Language Arts as measured by state, local and/or common assessments*. That information will be available at a later date. It was also noted that the 90 percent was not a state benchmark, currently our district attendance rate is 94 percent. Student growth data that compares individual growth to the district and national norm is shared with families. Explanation on how averages are calculated was provided, along with clarification on the difference in the number of students assessed fall, winter and spring. It was noted that students moving, dropping out, failing a course and moving to credit recovery, all affect the total number of students assessed. There was discussion on common assessments and aligning to the Illinois State Standards to provide more rigor. Comparing QPS data to similar demographic groups as well as looking at the gap between accelerated students and the rest of the student population were discussed. Member Zeidler noted that teachers would like more programs or assistance related to language acquisition. Julie also provided explanation on the difference between Pre-K and Transitional Kindergarten. PARCC data should be available in August and the student growth data can then be analyzed to determine whether the goals for student growth were met. Sheldon would like this information presented to the School Board in August. In response to comments on the importance of providing training to teachers using Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), Carol and Julie shared that a high number of teachers and administrators attended professional development this summer on the use of MAP.

B. Curriculum Development Guide

The Curriculum Development Guide was revised according to the recommendations from committee members at last month's meeting. Carol pointed out the new format and noted that the QPS Policy is aligned to the Illinois School Code. She addressed the concerns some committee members had over some language contained in the guide and pointed out that these concerns can be presented to the Policy Committee. Carol and Sheldon asked the committee members to review the guide in its new format and bring any concerns or comments to the next meeting. When the Curriculum Development Guide is adopted it will be posted on the QPS website under Curriculum and Instruction.

C. Textbook Adoption Proposal

There was discussion on the new manner in which students are being taught, and the diversity of subject matter in student textbooks which requires students to maintain what they have learned as they move to the next course. Carol shared that QPS had a choice to organize core subjects by domain or to integrate and QPS has chosen to organize by domain. Parent reaction to the more diverse subject matter in textbooks was discussed, it was also noted that parental response to the 5 Essential survey has not reached the 20 percent threshold, with the exception of Ellington school. The future of textbooks was discussed and Carol and Julie shared that QPS is using more online resources such as Schoology Learning Management System which provides access to online textbooks and resources for students. The following textbooks, which include a 6-year online component, have been available for review in Carol's office since the last Curriculum Committee meeting:

- Algebra 1 – Common Core

- Algebra 2 - Common Core
- Geometry – Common Core

There was discussion on the funding for these texts and it was noted that Quincy Public Schools Foundation has pledged \$25,000 toward the cost of the textbooks, the remaining dollars will come from district funds. Superintendent, Roy Webb, stated that money is tight for textbooks and he complimented Carol and Julie on how hard they have worked to fund these textbook purchases. Member Bailey asked for a motion to recommend to the Board to adopt these textbook purchases and a motion was made by Member Rubottom and seconded by Member Teter.

4. Recommend to the Board of Education for Action –

- Member Bailey asked for a motion to recommend to the Board to adopt the following 3 textbooks:
 - Algebra I – Common Core
 - Algebra II – Common Core
 - Geometry – Common Core

A motion was made by Member Rubottom and seconded by Member Teter.

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

Topics Raised by Committee Members – There was more discussion on reducing the number of assessments that teachers are required to administer.

6. Adjourn – 6:17 p.m.

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