

Quincy Public School Curriculum Committee Meeting
Board Office Conference Room # 214
February 6, 2017 – 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, Christensen, Rubottom, Vogler and Zeidler; and the following members were absent: Rose, and Teter. Whereupon the Chairman determined there were enough members present for a quorum.

B. Recognition of Visitors

Board members, staff and others present: Julie Stratman, Carol Frericks, Roy Webb, Kim Dinkheller, Michaela Fray, Jen Drew, Jeff Kerkhoff and Deb Husar/Quincy Herald Whig.

C. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Bailey asked if there were any items to be added to the agenda, and there were none. The agenda was approved.

2. Questions and Comments from the Public

Jeff Kerkhoff distributed articles to those present on Ronald Reagan, the C3 Framework. He also discussed an article that proposed that looking at a computer screen for extended periods could cause blindness.

Committee Discussion Items

A. Revise QPS Curriculum Committee Schedule of Reports

The discussion on revising the Quincy Public Schools Board of Education Curriculum Committee Schedule of Reports was continued from last month's meeting. The members agreed to the following revisions:

- Change the name of Rising Star Continuous Improvement Team Report to District Improvement Team Report
- Move Curriculum Proposals from January to December as students register for classes in January
- Move the Reading Recovery Report from July to August
- Move the District Improvement Team Winter Report from February to March

Carol shared that the Standards Aligned Grading and Reporting (SAGR) Task Force will reconvene in April or May of this year as the Task Force recommended looking at grading practices every two years. There was discussion on the changes that were implemented based on the SAGR Task Force previous recommendations and results from the District Needs Assessment Survey. Some assessments have been removed and the discussion on the 80/20 and retake grading practices will continue at the building and district levels.

B. PARCC Results

Carol introduced Paul Zavitkovsky, Leadership Coach/Assessment Specialist with the Center for Urban Education Leadership at the University of Illinois Chicago. Steve Tozer, Program Director with the Center for Urban Education Leadership also joined the meeting by phone to discuss the report *How is Quincy Doing Compared with the Rest of Central Illinois and the State as a Whole?* The report shows that QPS students in grades 3-8 score above the state average on standardized achievement tests among central Illinois school districts despite having a higher low-income enrollment. Mr. Zavitkovsky noted that between 2001 and 2016 low income enrollments in Quincy increased by 18 points from 39% to 57%. He also shared that standardized tests yield comparable results as long as the distribution is normalized. This allows for comparison of ISAT and PARCC data from 2001 – 2016. Mr. Zavitkovsky stressed that that the shift in content does not make a difference on standardized tests, as they are testing student's abilities to work through academic complexity.

There was discussion on the impact income levels and ethnicity have on students' performance. Chairman Bailey stated that the goal of the realignment of school boundaries for the new QPS K-5 learning communities is to create learning communities with equal enrollment and more balanced socioeconomic demographics. Mr. Zavitkovsky felt this realignment would have a dramatic effect on student performance. He also cited other conditions in place in other districts that are achieving success with a large population of low income students. These include a team approach to face obstacles, and principal discretion at the school level to rearrange resources to provide supports to the students as well as the teachers. There was discussion on what QPS has done to achieve the upticks that were evident in the data.

Carol stated that this was the first time that a combination of ISAT and PARCC state assessment data analysis has been brought to the Curriculum Committee for review. Carol thanked Mr. Zavitkovsky for reviewing QPS data with the Curriculum Committee. Chairman Bailey asked that this topic be discussed further at the next Curriculum Committee meeting.

Recommend to the Board of Education for Action - None

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

- **Topics Raised by Committee Members – None**

4. Adjourn – 6:37 pm

Next Meeting – March 20, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. RM 231 BOE