

Quincy Public School Curriculum Committee Meeting
Board Office Conference Room # 214
January 9, 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 Christensen, Rose, and Vogler; and the following members were absent: Arnold, Rubottom, Teter and Zeidler. Whereupon the Chairman determined there were not enough members present for a quorum.

B. Recognition of Visitors

Board members, staff and others present: Julie Stratman, Carol Frericks, Roy Webb, Danielle Arnold, Jody Steinke, Kim Dinkheller, Michaela Fray, Kaleb Smith, Mark Pfleiger, Jeff Kerkhoff and Deb Husar.

C. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Bailey asked if there were any items to be added to the agenda, and Carol suggested the committee discuss revising the Schedule of Reports by moving the Curriculum Proposals and Textbook Adoption Report from January to December. There was also discussion on the new Course Proposal form contained in the Curriculum Guide.

2. Questions and Comments from the Public

Jeff Kerkhoff distributed 2 articles to those present, *Common Core or 1984* and *The Bill of Rights: Its History and Significance*. Jeff reviewed both articles, reading excerpts from both. He also commented on the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights and there was discussion on how it has been addressed in the schools.

3. Committee Discussion Items

A. Curriculum Proposals

Danielle Edgar, Quincy Senior High School (QHS) principal reviewed the curriculum proposals for QHS. The courses being proposed include:

- **Environmental Science** – A new traditional science course sequence was adopted in 2014-2015. It is as follows: 9th grade Biology, 10th grade Chemistry or Fundamentals of Chemistry and Physics, and 11th grade Physics or Chemistry. Science teachers noticed that students achieve more success in Physics if they have completed Algebra II (junior level course). Environmental Science is a yearlong less math-intensive option for college bound 11th and 12th graders. No new FTE required.
- **Education Pathway** – “Grow Your Own” Program. Danielle described a new partnership between Quincy Public Schools (QPS) and John Wood Community College (JWCC) that will

provide opportunities for students interested in pursuing a career in education. QHS students will earn high school credit for the coursework as well as have the option to pay tuition to JWCC to earn college credit. Plans are to offer 2 new semester courses during 2017-2018 and 2 additional new courses the following school year. Students could earn 12 credit hours in education and possibly 18 if they take additional online courses. Danielle noted that these proposed courses are generally transferrable to any state university. The Education Pathway courses being proposed for 2017-2018 are:

- **Introduction to Education** – This course is an introduction to teaching as a profession in the American Educational system. This course will include a clinical component which will require students to observe in a QPS K-12 classroom.
- **Media and Technology in Education** – This course introduces future educators to the knowledge and skills required in the 21st century classroom.

Danielle noted that no additional FTEs will be required for these courses. Brenda Stalder will teach both of these courses. Another teacher might be needed for year two of implementation, this will be discussed. Danielle also shared that JWCC and Quincy University are currently working on a 2+2 articulation agreement. This could provide a seamless transition for education majors from JWCC to QU. Carol noted that the District Improvement Team (DIT) has also been in collaboration with QU and JWCC regarding “Grow Your Own” to encourage students to pursue careers in education.

Kaleb Smith, QAVTC teacher reviewed the following curriculum proposals:

- **Computer Science Essentials** - QHS/QAVTC – This year long course was developed by Project Lead The Way (PLTW) as the next step in their 4-year program sequence. Students will experience the major topics, big ideas, and computational thinking practices used by computing professionals to solve problems and create value for others. PLTW will provide training for the teacher for this course during the summer at no cost. The district will have minimal expenses to pay for the teacher’s professional development time.
- **Graduation Requirement Computer Credit** - QHS and QAVTC recommend that PLTW Introduction to Computer Science course be allowed to meet the computer credit graduation requirement at QHS, which will provide more room in student’s schedules to take courses that are aligned to their career interests.

The following Vocational – Technical semester courses have been identified as courses necessary to continue the development of the QAVTC agriculture program by the agriculture advisory committee. QAVTC teacher Kelly Weiman will teach these agriculture courses.

- **Horticulture Science** - This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for future employment in the agronomy or related industries. There was discussion on whether this course could count as a science credit, this would depend on the credentials of the teacher teaching the course.

- **Agricultural Leadership** – Students will analyze current agricultural issues, and enhance their written and oral communication skills by presenting on and debating these issues. Participation in FFA and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) is a component of the course.
- **Agricultural Sales and Marketing** – This course is designed to develop student knowledge and skills in agricultural sales and marketing, commodity marketing, agricultural economics, and international agriculture. Participation in FFA and (SAE) is a component of the course.
- **Supervised Agricultural Experiences** – This course is designed to establish, improve, and/or expand knowledge and skills in various agricultural careers. Students will gain credit by establishing or continuing a SAE project at their home, at a business, or at their school often occurring outside the normal school day. In addition, classroom time may be incorporated for foundational knowledge related to the SAE. SAE participation can lead to fulltime employment, scholarships, and awards through the FFA.

There was discussion on textbooks costs and it was noted that when looking at online resources we should consider mobile accessibility, as many students do not have computers at home, but do have smart phones. The possibility that JWCC could partner with QPS on the purchase of textbooks for the Education Pathway courses was discussed. It was also noted that pre-registration for students for the 2017-2018 school year will begin tomorrow, January 10, 2017. Chairman Bailey noted that since there were not enough committee members present for a quorum, the committee could not make a recommendation to the Board on the Curriculum Proposals. Co-chairs Bailey and Rose will present these proposals to the Board at the next meeting on January 25, 2017.

B. Textbook Inventory

Carol shared that we have been working to create an online resource for our textbook inventory in response to a recommendation made by the Curriculum Committee. We will continue to update the inventory and use it to make textbook decisions in the future. Julie Stratman reviewed the K-5 portion of the inventory. She noted that teachers use supplemental resources in the classroom that are not listed on the inventory. There was discussion on mentor texts and guided reading materials and it was noted that all teachers have a copy, but there is not one for every child. Mentor texts for reading and writing are listed on a separate tab by grade. In the early 2000s Quincy Public Schools Foundation (QPSF) provided many resources to QPS.

Carol and Kim Dinkheller, Quincy Junior High School (QJHS) assistant principal, reviewed the 6-8 information in the inventory. Kim noted that there is a literature and ELA library for each grade level at QJHS. A separate tab has been added to the spreadsheet to list the novels for grades 6-8. Math textbooks are the most recent adoption and purchase for QJHS.

QHS textbook information was reviewed along with the novels listed on a separate tab. Carol noted that the focus had been on math adoption and future recommendations will be for science textbooks and materials for all grade levels. Carol shared that state adoption of revised Learning Standards dictated our focus.

Carol noted that textbook proposals will come forward in February and March, and these will be kept on the table for 30 days before a recommendation can be made. There was discussion on whether a textbook that is not ready in 2017 would cause it to fall out of sequence, and Carol answered that it would not affect the sequence.

Recommend to the Board of Education for Action - Sheldon noted that since there were not enough committee members present for a quorum, the committee could not make a recommendation to the Board on the Curriculum Proposals. Sheldon and member Rose will present these proposals to the Board at the next meeting on January 25, 2017.

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

- **Topics Raised by Committee Members** – There was discussion on revising the Schedule of Reports by moving the Curriculum Proposals and Textbook Adoption Report from January to December. This will be discussed at the February meeting. There was discussion on projected costs for science textbook costs for K-12 adoption. It was noted that each building has a textbook budget but this is for repairing and replacing current textbooks. There was also discussion on consumable material costs.

5. Adjourn – 6:23 pm

Next Meeting – February 13, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. RM 231 BOE