

Quincy Public Schools Curriculum Committee Minutes

Board Office Conference Room #231

June 9, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Debby Cashman, Jan Zeidler, Lauren Kiest, Denette Kuhlman, Jan Cory, Cheryl Vogler, Stephanie Erwin, Jeff Mays (by speaker phone)

Committee members absent: Jim Rubottom, Jan Leimbach

Board members, staff and others: Kim Dinkheller, Jeff Kerkhoff, Julie Stratman, Ed Husar, Denise Drebes, Brian Peuster, Melanie Schrand, Jody Steinke

1. Call to order

Jeff Mays, committee chair, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Information provided to Committee

A. Junior Achievement Review

Denise Drebes, Junior Achievement (JA) Northeast Missouri and West Central Illinois District Manager presented a review of the 2013-14 school year. She presented Outreach Numbers:

- Number of Students Taught: 3016
- Number of Volunteers: 140
- Number of Classrooms: 130
- Hours volunteers spent in QPS Classrooms: 445

Denise presented pre and post-test data for students participating in JA programs by grade level. Denise stressed the importance and value of the volunteers in the school and the positive impact on both students and volunteers that JA provides.

Denise presented a video on *BizTown*. *JA BizTown is JA Worldwide's experiential-based, elementary school capstone program. The program encompasses important elements of work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy, providing students with a solid foundation of business, economics, and free enterprise education. Furthermore, the program content augments students' core curriculum in social studies, English language arts, and mathematics. Throughout the program, students use critical thinking skills to learn about key concepts as they explore and enhance their understanding of free enterprise.*

BizTown is a program being considered for implementation at the 5th grade level in the 2014-15 school year. *BizTown* is taught by the classroom teacher, and contains 21 lessons. There was discussion on whether there is enough time to implement *BizTown* for the 2014-15 school year as teachers will have to add this instruction into their daily lesson planning. Denise stated there is another option for 5th graders if *BizTown* is not implemented in 2014-15. There was discussion on implementing an 8th grade program and possibly a program at Senior High next year. This will be discussed at the July Curriculum Committee meeting.

There were questions on funding sources for JA. Denise stated there are partnerships established with local businesses and some have made multi-year commitments to fund JA. Stephanie Erwin stated that the JA program finances are covered for next school year. QPS Foundation has also made a \$20,000 donation to JA. It was also pointed out that JA bears the burden of funding the program, not Quincy Public Schools.

B. Textbook Adoption

Kim Dinkheller presented the 7th and 8th Grade Textbook Adoption Proposal to Curriculum Committee members.

Current Textbooks:

7th -IL Math Connects 2010 edition Glencoe/McGraw Hill (publisher)

8th -Pre-Algebra 2005 edition McDougal-Littell (publisher)

Proposed Textbook for adoption:

7th – McGraw-Hill Glencoe Math Book 2

8th –McGraw-Hill Glencoe Math Book 3

Why do we need a new math textbook at the 7th and 8th grade level?

Common Core Math Standards focus on four to five critical areas at the 7th and 8th grade level:

7th Grade

- Ratios and Proportions
- The Number System
- Expressions and Equations
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

8th Grade:

- Expressions and Equations
- Functions
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

Both of our current textbooks are not aligned to Common Core Standards, especially in the areas of Geometry and Statistics and Probability. The McGraw-Hill Glencoe Math textbook is aligned to Common Core Standards. Our 7th and 8th grade teachers have used samples of the McGraw-Hill Glencoe math product this past school year and are very happy with not only the Common Core alignment, but are also happy with the real-world application, rigor, and the leveled resources for students in a mixed-ability classroom. This textbook also provides many digital resources to support blended learning in the classroom and help outside of the classroom. It is relevant, rigorous, results focused, and allows for personalized learning for all students.

How will the adoption of this textbook improve curriculum alignment K-12?

McGraw-Hill Glencoe Math will provide training for teachers in how to effectively use the textbook, digital resources and student support tools. Our K-6 classrooms are also using Common Core aligned McGraw-Hill Everyday Mathematics. This will provide a smooth transition from 6th to 7th grade. Our high school level courses are aligning curriculum to Common Core through consultation with IL math consultants Randy and Sue Phippen. The training from McGraw-Hill/Glencoe and Phippen Consulting will help to create alignment K-12 in math. To ensure a smooth transition from 8th to 9th grade math, our teachers will participate in a portion of the Phippen training alongside high school teachers.

Kim answered questions from Committee members on the Professional Development (PD) that will be provided by Glencoe for the teachers, and stated teachers will pilot blended learning using the digital resources available through the textbooks, with training from McGraw-Hill Glencoe in August of 2014, and throughout the school year. There was discussion on whether there was a need to continue using Randy and Sue Pippens as math consultants since PD will be provided by McGraw-Hill Glencoe. Kim pointed out that the high school math textbooks are not aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), and standardized tests will be 100% aligned to the CCSS, so it is important to retain the Pippens to ensure alignment in curriculum.

Kim stated that math teachers have been piloting the new textbooks and the response from students has been positive. Kim pointed out that the proposed new textbooks are consumable, the students can write in them. There were questions on costs and whether the consumable textbooks would be updated, they will look into bundle pricing for the textbooks. It was pointed out that many textbooks are moving to all digital, and the importance of digital access for all students was stressed. Kim stated that QJHS principal Dan Sparrow visited Joliet schools to research their 1:1 initiative. The importance of updating our technology plan was mentioned. The logistics of using the computers for online testing as well as in the classroom was discussed.

The proposed new math textbooks are available for review in Carol Frericks' office. The textbook proposal will be tabled until the July Curriculum Committee meeting.

C. Student Growth Reports for 2013-2014

Julie noted the Student Growth Reports had been sent out to committee members in advance of this meeting for review, and she asked if there were any questions or comments. She reviewed a few of the reports to ensure that everyone understood the data. Committee members requested that the data be presented in the same format across all grade levels, to make it easier to compare the data.

D. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Proposal

Julie went over the costs associated with Stanford testing in the past, versus the cost for MAP testing, noting there would be a cost savings if the district began using MAP testing rather than Stanford. It was pointed out that MAP shows student growth, is real time and is aligned to the CCSS. Computer accessibility was brought up; it was noted that classes would not take the MAP tests at the same time. Julie stated the cost is \$12.00 per student for MAP testing. The importance of the District Wide Technology Plan was again brought up given the greater demand for digital access in testing, as well as in the classroom. Julie stated that there will be training for teachers on MAP during Teacher Institute at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year if MAP is approved. Denette Kuhlman stated that the QPS Foundation is interested in funding technology for the district once a plan is in place. Julie noted that meeting with John P. Closen, Ph.D., Director Area III Learning Technology Center (LTC) provided good information and guidance on establishing a District Wide Technology Plan. Jeff Mays made a motion to recommend the Measures of Academic Progress proposal to the Board for approval at the June 25, 2014 meeting.

E. Other Topics Raised by Committee Members

Julie will email the proposed 2014-2015 Curriculum Committee meeting dates to committee members. Committee member Lauren Kiest handed out a questionnaire asking for insight from Curriculum Committee members on the purpose of the Curriculum Committee as well as what topics they would like to see discussed and suggestions for improvement. Committee member Cashman had a question on Baldwin Accelerated curriculum and this will be discussed.

2. **Recommend to the Board of Education for Action** – Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) proposal.

3. **Consider any other matter relating to the Curriculum needs or concerns of the District** –

- Grading practice review 80/20, 90/10, Re-Take Policy.

- Retention Update.
- QJHS Math Textbook proposal.
- JA Implementation 2014-2015.
- Update on Technology Plan.
- Baldwin Accelerated curriculum.

4. **Questions and comments from the Public**

5. **Adjourn: 6:39 p.m.**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, July 14, 2014 – 5:00 p.m. (proposed)