

**Quincy Public Schools Curriculum Committee Minutes**  
**Board Office Conference Room #231**  
**May 11, 2015**

**Committee members present:** Sheldon Bailey, Jan Zeidler, Cheryl Vogler, Denette Kuhlman, Sandi Rose,

**Committee members absent:** Jan Leimbach, Jim Rubottom, Loren Kiest, Jan Cory, Debby Cashman

**Board members, staff and others:** Carol Frericks, Julie Stratman, Jeff Kerkhoff, Ed Husar, Carol Nichols, Kim Dinkheller, Maddie Filipiak, Heather Colombo, Airen O'Cheltree

**Call to order**

Sheldon Bailey called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**1. Committee Discussion Items**

**A. Topics Raised by Committee Members**

None

**B. District Library Services Presentation**

Carol Frericks introduced Heather Colombo, Quincy Public Schools (QPS) district librarian to those present. Heather presented the *QPS Library Media Development Plan*, a copy was also provided to Curriculum Committee members prior to tonight's meeting. Heather stated she has created a district website available to all students, staff and parents that will provide links to a wide range of resources. She noted that QPS has switched to a web-based library management system provided by Follett. This system is user friendly and dynamic, and provides reliable resources for students K-12. Students and teachers with a log-in have access to all of the resources paid for by the district. Heather noted she used a small grant to begin purchasing e-books; she purchased \$300 worth of e-books for each elementary school, an additional 70 fiction titles to be shared by all 7 elementary schools will be added next week. These e-books can be downloaded and students and teachers will have simultaneous access to the same materials, either on Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) or projected on a screen. Heather stated she can track statistics on how many kids are using the e-books. She plans to track Madison elementary students this summer and use the data she gathers to determine future grant applications. Students are allowed 5 days circulation time, with one renewal, so they can keep the books for 10 days. Heather has visited 4 elementary schools so far and will visit 2 more this week to address the teachers and administrators. She plans to address Baldwin teachers and administrators during Teacher Institute. Her hope is to establish a committee with representation from each school that can provide her with feedback on the new system. Heather also noted that Follett provides a subscribed service, Textbook and Asset Manager, which can catalog the district's textbooks, as well as manage

classroom and district assets. Heather noted that whole school access to online resources can be a problem at some schools. Carol stated that a report from the Rising Star Continuous Improvement Team (RSCIT) will be presented to the Curriculum Committee in June on the next steps for BYOD; this will also be communicated to parents. Heather said she would like to use the term “Library/Media Center” now that all students will have access to such a wide variety of resources. She has plans to try to increase library patronage in grades 10-12. Sheldon Bailey suggested we create expectations within the schools and then inspect to see if these expectations are being met. Sheldon stated preliminary data on the *QPS Library Media Development Plan* will be presented at next month’s School Board meeting.

**C. College and Career Center**

Carol introduced Maddie Filipiak, QPS College and Career Counselor, to those present. Maddie presented a PowerPoint on the College and Career Center. This is a new center for QPS and serves students, parents and teachers in grades K-12. Maddie’s position is funded through the Title I grant. Carol gave credit to Denette Kuhlman and the Quincy Public Schools Foundation for their vision in determining the need to establish a College and Career Center at QPS. Maddie outlined the services provided to students and parents, which include help with the college application process, financial aid and FAFSA assistance, help with resume and essay writing, ACT preparation and job applications and searches. Maddie also discussed the online programs she is using with students, Overgrad and Career Cruising. Overgrad is web-based college readiness platform that allows students to research and connect with colleges or universities they are interested in, to see if they are a good fit. Career Cruising is a web based college and career readiness platform that provides in-depth information on careers, as well as skill inventories and resume building. Maddie explained that the College and Career Readiness (CCR) Program provides the opportunity for parent/counselor/student meetings, teacher/counselor collaboration as well as one on one student meetings. Maddie stated that all English classes 10-12 were introduced to Overgrad and Career Cruising this year. A FAFSA completion night was also held to assist students and families. Defined Learning/Defined STEM, a platform that enables teachers to provide application of knowledge to students through the use of project based learning, real world careers and meaningful reading and writing activities was introduced in January of 2015. Carol stated that Professional Development (PD) has been provided to teachers on Defined Learning/Defined STEM this year and more PD will be provided this summer. Maddie explained that her vision for the College and Career Center would be for it to expand to a resource center where multiple students could be working independently on CCR activities. She would like to enlist parents to help staff the center, to allow her time to visit all of the schools in the district. She would like to begin introducing Career Cruising and Overgrad to the 9<sup>th</sup> graders, but no timeline has been established. There was a brief discussion on the possibility of expanding the College and Career Center services to all area Adams County schools.

#### **D. Curriculum Proposals/Textbook Adoption**

**Junior Achievement Course Grade 8 – Start with the End in Mind** – Denise Drebes, JA District Manager, and Kim Dinkheller provided information on the proposed *Start with End in Mind* program for students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Quincy Junior High School (QJHS). The program consists of 4 sessions:

- Session 1 - Before the Job Hunt
- Session 2 – Identifying Skills and Values
- Session 3 – Perfect Match
- Session 4 – Writing a Great Resume

QJHS currently uses an interdisciplinary team approach with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. They will use this team approach when teaching the *Start with the End in Mind* program, a science, math, ELA and social studies teacher will each teach one session, with the 5<sup>th</sup> session focusing on Job Shadowing and Careers. They will determine where these will fit best in the curriculum. QJHS proposed to begin this program in the first semester of the 2015-2016 school year. Sheldon stated that a vote cannot be taken as we are between committees; the new members have not been seated. He stated they will make a recommendation at the next School Board meeting on May 20th to approve the JA *Start with the End in Mind* program for 8<sup>th</sup> graders at QJHS for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Grade 6 Mathematics – Glencoe Math** – Julie Stratman stated that the district began the transition to Glencoe Math by backwards mapping the curriculum, with the latest addition being *Glencoe 6<sup>th</sup> grade Accelerated Math*; 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Glencoe Math resources are already in place at QJHS. She would now like to add 6<sup>th</sup> grade Glencoe Math which would ensure a smooth transition to QJHS for students, and aid in the transition to a 6-8 school in the future. Sixth grade teachers have been reviewing the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Glencoe Math materials since Christmas and they like the setup of the material and are in favor of adopting this course. Training will be provided for teachers this summer on several dates. One consumable textbook per semester will be provided for each student at a cost of \$7812.18. Sheldon asked where the district stands on textbooks for students currently. Carol stated that with the information provided by the textbook inventory the district will continue to improve access to ELA and math textbooks. She also noted that they will communicate with parents on how students can access textbooks online or check out hard copies after school, given the use of classroom sets. Heather Colombo will look into library access for students for those books that we currently have online. Sheldon stated they would recommend that the Board approve the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Glencoe Math Proposal at the May 20<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting.

**2. Recommend to the Board of Education for Action**

- Approval of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade *Glencoe Math* textbook proposal
- Approval of the *JA Start with the End in Mind* 8<sup>th</sup> grade implementation proposal

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

- Textbook access for students

**4. Questions and Comment from the Public** – Board member Carol Nichols asked if the cost for the new math textbooks would be a yearly expense and Julie Stratman explained that it would be, as the textbooks are consumable. Carol also suggested some possible sites for Heather Colombo to explore. She also suggested to Maddie Filipiak to enlist local alumni from various universities and colleges as a resource for students as they begin their postsecondary research and application process.

Jeff Kerkhoff asked for clarification on the number of 6<sup>th</sup> grade math textbooks. He also stated that he liked the entrepreneurship/leadership training that JA provides. Jeff also distributed a copy of the 1918 final examination for 8<sup>th</sup> graders as well as a list of QPS superintendents from 1903-2015.

**5. Adjourn: 6:18 p.m. Next Meeting - Monday, June 8, 2015 RM 231**