

Quincy Public Schools Curriculum Committee Minutes

Board Office Conference Room #231

May 12, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Debby Cashman, Jan Leimbach, Jeff Mays, Jan Zeidler, Lauren Kiest

Committee members absent: Jan Cory, Cheryl Vogler, Jim Rubottom, Stephanie Erwin, Denette Kuhlman

Board members, staff and others: Anne Cashman, Carol Frericks, Jeff Kerkhoff, Julie Stratman, Dan Sparrow, Mary Christensen, Danielle Edgar, Evie Morrison, Steve Eighinger

1. Call to order

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

Jeff discussed the proposal on graduation honors that was presented to the School Board at last month's meeting. Jeff stated the board would like to retain Valedictorian and Salutatorian, as well as adopt a Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude honor system. The Board would like to continue to have the Valedictorian speak at graduation, as well as allow the Summa Cum Laude students to apply to speak at graduation. Danielle Edgar stated that currently the senior class president gives a welcome address and the all school president delivers a closing speech. There was discussion on the timeline that will be necessary to notify students of their graduation honors to allow time for them to apply to speak at graduation. There will be more discussion on this topic.

Information provided to Committee

A. Course Proposals for 2014-2015

- QHS Math Course: Decision Making with Data - Danielle Edgar and Evie Morrison presented information on a proposed new 4th year math course offering, *Decision Making with Data*. Danielle stated they began looking at 4th year math courses with the adoption of Common Core State Standards (CCSS). They want to provide a meaningful 4th year math option for students. Danielle stated this class covers basic statistics, and she noted more colleges require statistics in many fields of study. The course will be offered to juniors and seniors, with successful completion of *Algebra II* as a prerequisite.

This course is designed for, but is not limited to, students who plan on going into non-technical majors in college. Students will use problem solving, integrative thinking, and decision modeling to make logical decisions from statistical data. Decision-making examples will involve studies of real-world applications of data in areas such as epidemiology, business, bioethics, scheduling, law, voting, graph theory, social science, sociology, and current events. MS Excel will be used to analyze data and generate graphs. Evaluation of student performance will be based primarily on homework, quizzes, class participation, presentations, and projects. The TI-Nspire CAS calculator or a TI-83/84 is required.

Course Rationale: This course will replace FST (Functions, Statistics, and Trigonometry) as a 4th year math offering at Quincy Senior High School. A large portion of the content covered in

FST is now being taught in earlier courses as a result of the Common Core State Standards realignment.

This course was suggested by math consultants Randy and Sue Phippen, of Phippen Consulting. Math teachers Evie Morrison and Andrea Nicholson went and witnessed the course being taught at Glenbrook South High School. Glenbrook South has been teaching this course, *Decision Making with Data*, for 7 years. Glenbrook South teachers have shared information they have collected over the years relating to this course with our teachers.

The committee recommended the 2014-2015 QHS Math Course Proposal, *Decision Making with Data*, and Textbook Adoption, *Statistics Through Applications* be submitted to the School Board for approval at its next meeting on May 21, 2014.

B. Textbook Adoption for 2014-2015

Primary Text/Cost: *Statistics Through Applications*, 2nd ed., Starnes/Yates/Moore, W. H. Freeman, NY. Three classroom sets (32) of textbooks will cost approximately \$131.52.

The cost of the textbook was discussed and Danielle and Evie pointed out that when the text is purchased, an online version will be available to students, which they can access from home. It was also pointed out that this course will be taught over the whole year, not just 1 semester.

The textbook *Statistics Through Applications*, 2nd ed., Starnes/Yates/Moore, W. H. Freeman, NY. Three classroom sets (32) of textbooks will cost approximately \$131.52 will be placed on display at the BOE office.

C. Retention Update

Julie Stratman discussed the retention information that was handed out to committee members. She noted in March of this year administrators were directed to have conversations with the families of those students who were a year or more behind in their reading levels. She stated that from these meeting with families plans were developed that involve the parents, students and teachers. Parent's reactions to possible retentions were discussed. It was pointed out that parents are disappointed, but they appreciate being a part of the process, and without exception they all want their kids to do well in school. Julie noted 297 retention meetings were held K-8. Of those 297 it was determined that 158 students will not be retained, 10 will be retained, and the decision on the remaining 141 will be made at the completion of Summer Academy. Dan Sparrow noted that many of the students at QJHS who may be retained are chronic truants. It was pointed out that attendance has increased in some cases as a result of the retention conversations with parents. It was noted that parents understand that for these students summer school is mandatory and if the student does not attend they will be retained. Carol Frericks pointed

out that on the 2014-2015 school calendar Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for February, so the conversations regarding retention will begin earlier next year. There was discussion on how the retention policy will be presented to families at the beginning of the new school year. It was noted that it will be included in the student handbook given to all families. Sending a separate letter addressing the retention policy to all families was also discussed.

D. Other Topics Raised by Committee Members

- Curriculum demonstration – Committee member Jim Rubottom had requested information on curriculum at last month’s meeting. Mary Christensen, literacy coach from Baldwin School presented information and a demonstration on a Language Arts unit for 6th grade, on Curriculum Connector as an example. She went over the unit noting that all guidelines are set up for all teachers K-12, and they can then individualize them by adding their own information. It was noted that using Curriculum Connector is a tool that will provide teachers and administrators with data reports so we can enhance curriculum to address any curriculum gaps. It was pointed out that with Performance Plus, assessment tools such as Stanford, MAP, ISAT and PARCC can be uploaded into Curriculum Connector. The ability to use the tool to align assessment with curriculum will provide valuable feedback. Julie noted she is proud of the work that has been done to align the curriculum to the new standards. Jeff thanked Mary Christensen for a fantastic presentation.

Jeff asked committee members if there were any topics they would like to discuss at the June meeting. Debbie Cashman said she has been approached by teachers asking that the Re-Take policy, 80 20 90 10, be reviewed. Also, she would like to discuss providing a librarian for the 9th grade level at QJHS since those students are technically high school students. Debbie stated that committee members expressed their displeasure that the QJHS Teaming Proposal was approved by the Board before being discussed at Curriculum Committee. Jeff stated Board member Sheldon Bailey wanted Board awareness before the Teaming concept went too far.

2. **Recommend to the Board of Education for Action** – Approve 2014-2015 QHS Math Course Proposal, *Decision Making with Data*, and Textbook Adoption, *Statistics Through Applications*. Approve the adoption of the textbook *Statistics Through Applications, 2nd ed., Starnes/Yates/Moore, W. H. Freeman, NY. Three classroom sets (32) of textbooks will cost approximately \$131.52.*
3. **Consider any other matter relating to the Curriculum needs or concerns of the District** –Junior Achievement Update, Student Growth Reports, QJHS Glencoe Math Grades 7&8 Textbook Adoption.
4. **Questions and comments from the Public**
5. **Adjourn: 6:42 p.m.**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, June 9, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.

