

Quincy Public Schools Curriculum Committee Minutes
Board Office Conference Room #231
November 10, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Debby Cashman, Jan Zeidler, Cheryl Vogler, Jeff Mays, Jim Rubottom, Denette Kuhlman, Loren Kiest, Stephanie Erwin

Committee members absent: Jan Leimbach, Jan Cory

Board members, staff and others: Kim Dinkheller, Jeff Kerkhoff, Carol Frericks, Julie Stratman, Joel Murphy, Sheldon Bailey

1. Call to order

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

2. Committee Discussion Items

A. Topics Raised by Committee Members

Retention Update: Carol Frericks and Julie Stratman went over the retention update. They discussed the number of students who were retained by grade level in the summer of 2014, and noted that some students had been reassigned to Adams County Regional Safe School, some students had moved to other elementary schools in the district, and some had moved out of the district. The students who were retained in grades 7-9 are closely monitored by their principal, counselor, teacher, TAOEP Liaison, and any other outside agency involved with the student, such as Cornerstone Foundation for Families. Each student is looked at individually and they are offered Math Enrichment and Focused ELA Study Skills in addition to their core courses, in lieu of electives. These students are reevaluated midterm first quarter and are offered extended day enrichment if deemed necessary by those evaluating the student. Carol noted that QHS students are not retained, students that fail courses do not advance in their credits needed for graduation.

Julie stated that in grades K-6 students are monitored and evaluated by the HELP (Help Every Learner Prosper) team which includes the school principal, classroom teacher, school psychologist and social worker, Star Guide, Literacy Coach, and SLP if needed. Julie noted ECFC has begun monitoring students in preparation for making retention decisions for next year. Julie stated that children being retained are allowed to transfer to another school in the district but the family must provide transportation.

Retention as it relates to SPED students was discussed. Updates to IEP's are communicated to parents quarterly, and if there is no progression, additional meetings can be called at any time. It was noted that a meeting can be called after summer school, if needed. The annual review is used to determine placement for the following school year.

Carol and Julie noted that two new online supplemental resources have been added this year for use with students, ALEKS and Defined Learning. It was also suggested to place retention on the agenda quarterly for follow up discussion, or on the same schedule as MAP testing.

Textbook Inventory: Carol stated that QJHS and QHS have class sets of textbooks, which are available for students to check out to take home. The district began using this model, class sets, when there were accompanying online textbooks. Publishers have since changed their policies and districts must purchase one online subscription per student. QHS and QJHS are currently taking inventory of textbooks, and will decide which need to be updated. Carol stated that the Curriculum Committee needs to look at course proposals and textbook adoptions early in the year to prepare for purchase of textbooks. Online lectures and tutorials were mentioned as a resource for students. It was also mentioned that Bookshare is an accessible free online library for students with print disabilities. It was also noted that Illinois Shared Learning Environment (ISLE) is an available resource that is an online platform that will empower educators and learners with integrated data and tools to personalize learning and drive success for pre-K through career.

B. Update on Assessment Inventory – Citizens Advisory Committee

Denette, Jeff and Cheryl will serve on the Assessment Inventory Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The committee will also have representation from administration and teaching faculty, as well as parents. The meetings dates and times established are:

- November 25, 2014 from 3:45-5:15p.m.
- December 16, 2014 from 3:45-5:15p.m.
- January 8, 2015 from 3:45-5:15p.m.
- January 22, 2015 from 3:45-5:15p.m.

The task of the committee is to conduct an assessment inventory, utilizing the ISBE Assessment Inventory tool, which will include surveying teachers, and reviewing grading practices. The committee will plan to report at the February Curriculum Committee meeting.

C. Curriculum Schedule of Reports

Carol and Julie asked the committee members to review the draft schedule of reports that was given to them and to provide feedback at the December Curriculum Committee meeting. They stated it is their hope to limit the number of reports and to let the committee know in advance when reports will be presented.

D. Rising Star Continuous Improvement Team – First Quarter Report

New Illinois Learning Standards – DLLT and DMLT will provide district wide communication and training on remaining ELA and Math Shifts and will continue ROE Foundational Services professional development. Also building level PLC and district-wide common PLC time for vertical alignment will be planned.

Digital Conversion for Teaching and Learning – The district will use 2 supplemental online teaching and learning resources, ALEKS and Defined Learning. Information regarding these new resources and the Bring Your Own Device procedures will be provided at parent teacher conferences and parent institutes. The district provided a BYOD parent newsletter with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). It was noted that teachers will have a choice in how they begin using technology in their classroom. The opportunity to BYOD will begin January 5, 2015, in grades 3, 6 and 9-12. The devices that are currently approved are an iPad and the Dell 3340. Carol stated that the Rising Star Continuous Improvement Team’s (RSCIT) work on BYOD policies will be reported to the Policy Committee on November 17th and to the Board on November 19th. Carol noted that Dr. Bruce Spitzer, Dean of the School of Education at Quincy University, has experience with BYOD and is a very active member of RSCIT. QPS will provide professional development on the use of the two new online learning resources, as well as Internet Safety and Cyber Security. It was also noted that any standardized testing will be done on district devices. Training students in basic computer skills was discussed. Jan Zeidler asked that it be noted that the student led conferences were a success and this was the result of the many hours teachers put in to this initiative. Debbie Cashman noted that the list of assessments is not updated on QPS website.

3. Recommend to the Board of Education for Action - none

4. Consider any other matter relating to the Curriculum needs or concerns of the District –none

5. Questions and comments from the Public

6. Adjourn: 6:35 p.m.

7. NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 8, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.