

Quincy Public Schools Curriculum Committee Minutes

Board Office Conference Room #214

October 21, 2013

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

Committee member(s) absent: Jan Leimbach

Board members, staff and others: Anne Cashman, Kim Dinkheller, Danielle Edgar, Carol Frericks, Steve Eigninger, Jeff Kerkhoff, Julie Stratman, Mickey Elliott, Jody Steinke, Jason Fink, Sheldon Bailey, Sara Cramer, Brian Trowbridge, Jim Sohn, Brad Funkenbusch, Cindy Crow, Melanie Schrand, Richard McNay, Julie Beaver, Rick Owsley, Marcey Wells, Ed Husar

1. Call to order

Jeff Mays, committee chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Information provided to Committee

A. Rising Star Continuous Improvement Process-Webinar

Carol Frericks and Julie Stratman presented the Rising Star Continuous Improvement Process Webinar for all those present to view. The training video gave direction on how to access information on Rising Star, as well as explanation of the Rising Star Continuous Improvement Process. Carol presented our district page on Rising Star as a demonstration on what is currently being done; and pointed out board members have access to the information, making the process transparent. Rising Star is seen as a means to increase opportunities and outcomes for students. Jeff Mays proposed that committee members interested in gaining access to the Illinois Interactive Report Card, and Rising Star, contact Carol or Julie.

B. District Rising Star Continuous Improvement Team-Presentation of 2013-2014 SMART Goals

A copy of the district SMART Goal plan was handed out to everyone present. There was discussion on the opportunities and challenges of the Rising Star process. It was pointed out this is a mandatory, continuous process which will be monitored going forward. It was noted that all schools and districts that are using this process are aligned for the purpose of being accountable and transparent. Carol pointed out that district SMART Goals have been assessed. Carol informed the board members that they will need to go to the reports and look at the summary to see the work that has been done so far.

C. Building Rising Star Continuous Improvement Team-Presentation of 2013-2014 SMART Goals

A packet of the SMART Goal Plan for all buildings was handed out to all those in attendance. It was noted the Rising Star Continuous Improvement Plan will totally replace the school improvement process we have done in the past. Jeff surveyed principals present, each with different experience levels with Rising Star and asked them to share their perspective on the process. Points brought up included:

- Streamlines the process
- Daunting task, requires more professional development
- Conversations occurring at both district and school level that are beneficial, and providing different focus.
- Gives a better sense of where we are going.

- Accountability and transparency
- Additional duties for teachers and administrators
- Similar to accreditation at the high school level
- Documentation is time consuming
- Can be used as a comprehensive tool for other local data.
- Provides a more concise way to look at all documents and information.
- Provides an opportunity to stop and look at what you are doing.
- Forces you to look at resources in a different way.
- Question on how to make school improvement process friendly enough to encourage community and family involvement.

The principals noted they are in process of assessing indicators, it is not complete. It was pointed out that the school deadline is later than the district deadline.

Jan Cory stated that the Regional Office offers advice on streamlining the process, and meeting and minutes preparation. She shared that the process does get easier each year according to districts that have been using the process for at least a year.

Carol stated the major things that are going to be implemented:

- K-12 alignment of math and literacy with the new, higher standards
- Use of new diagnostic/formative assessments to measure student growth
- Utilize new online tools for math and reading to close the gaps in student performance skills

There was discussion of online personalized resources such as ALEKS and the Delaware Writing Rubric, and their benefits.

- **Recommend to the Board of Education for Action**-Recommend approval of Rising Star Continuous Improvement Plan for submission to Illinois State Board of Education.
- **Consider any other matter relating to the Curriculum needs or concerns of the District**-None
- **Questions or comments from the Public**
Included above.
- **Adjourn: 6:30 p.m.**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 4, 2013