

Quincy Public School Curriculum Committee Meeting

Board Office Conference Room # 231

June 13, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

A. Roll Call of members by the Committee Secretary

Sheldon Bailey, committee chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Chairman Bailey directed the Committee Secretary to call the roll. On the call of the roll, the following members were present and answered to their names: Members Arnold, Cashman, Rose, Teter; and the following members were absent: Members Rubottom, Vogler and Zeidler. Whereupon the Chairman determined a quorum was present.

B. Public Comment

Member Bailey also asked if there were any topics to be added to the agenda and there were none. The agenda was approved.

Board members, staff and others present: Julie Stratman, Carol Frericks, Kathi Dooley, Jody Steinke, Brenda Stalder, Maddie Corder, Evie Morrison, Emily Robbearts, Julie Phelan, Deb Husar, Marcey Wells, Michaela Fray, Ben Dombroski, Melissa Hinkamper, Danielle Edgar, Jeff Kerkhoff and Deborah Husar (Quincy Herald Whig), WGEM Reporter

2. Questions and Comments from the Public

Jeff Kerkhoff distributed articles to those present, and he provided comments on these articles.

3. Committee Discussion Items

A. Standards Aligned Grading and Reporting (SAGR) Task Force

Carol introduced the SAGR Task Force leaders present, Jody Steinke, Brenda Stalder, Julie Phelan, Marcey Wells and Kim Dinkheller. Carol explained that the Curriculum Committee had commissioned the Citizens Advisory Committee(CAC) to conduct an assessment inventory and that the recommendations from the 2014-2015 CAC led to the creation of the SAGR Task Force. The SAGR Task Force leaders presented a PowerPoint that included the stated purpose for the SAGR Task Force:

- Create a task force to determine best practices with regard to research on grading, including recommendations on the current practices on 80/20, retakes, and homework by the 2016-2017 school year.
- Create a task force to design and implement a standards aligned report card for K-5 by the 2016-2017 school year.

The SAGR Task Force Leadership Team consisting of administrators and teachers K-12 met quarterly, while the SAGR Task Force consisting of administrators, teachers and parents met monthly. The SAGR Task Force Leadership Team attended five SAGR Professional Development sessions with Tom Guskey and LeeAnn Jung during the 2015-2016 school year, as well as participated in training for Schoology Learning Management System. They will also attend an additional training on September 21, 2016. SAGR leaders communicated with staff in the spring of 2016 and collected feedback regarding effective grading practices. They will continue staff development and conversation on Standards Aligned Grading

Practices K-12. The task force has agreed to slow down implementation of the standards aligned grading and reporting which had initially been planned for the 2016-2017 school year. Carol asked that the Curriculum Committee recognize that the SAGR Task Force did not meet its goal but is moving forward and she asked for the committee's support to extend the original goals to the 2017-2018 school year. Sheldon asked for a motion to accept the recommendation to extend the SAGR Task Force goals to the 2017-2018 school year, a motion was made by member Teter and seconded by member Arnold. The task force will come back to Curriculum Committee mid-year of the 2016-2017 school year to make a recommendation on a completion date.

The importance of effective communication with parents regarding grading practices was discussed. It was noted that the 80/20 grading policy has been discussed at the building level and no consensus has been reached, so there are no plans to change this for the 2016-2017 school year. Conversations regarding the 80/20 grading policy will continue to take place during the 2016-2017 school year. All QPS staff have been updated on the progress of the SAGR task force.

B. Music Program - Transition Plan for 2016-2017

Kathi Dooley, District Music Director, addressed the committee regarding music offerings for the 2016-2017 school year, noting there would be no changes at Baldwin. She provided a master music schedule for Quincy Junior High School (QJHS) and Quincy High School (QHS) and she shared that all changes to these schedules were completed without adding any additional FTE's. Exploratory Arts opportunities at QJHS were discussed as well as the co-curricular opportunities, such as participating in the musicals and New Faces, available for 9th graders now that they will be at QHS.

C. Textbook Adoption Proposal

Representatives from the math department at QHS, Evie Morrison, Ben Dombroski and Melissa Hinkamper along with Jody Steinke, QHS Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction explained the process they used in reviewing textbook replacements for Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and Geometry. They reviewed 4 different publishers/textbooks using a rubric. This rubric will be added to the curriculum development guide. They decided on the following Pearson textbooks:

- Algebra 1 – Common Core
- Algebra 2 - Common Core
- Geometry – Common Core

They explained that these books are aligned with current curriculum maps and the books provided additional resources for teachers and students as well as a free app available for download. Carol explained that the math department has been aligning the curriculum to the new Illinois Learning Standards for the past few years and they now want the textbook to align to the standards aligned curriculum. They also provided an estimate to the committee for the cost to provide classroom sets along with 6-year online subscriptions, for every teacher who teaches these subjects. It was noted that a quote was received that reflected providing a textbook for every student but the cost was prohibitive. Carol shared that funding sources for the classroom sets has been secured, through several sources. These textbooks will be available for review in Carol's office for 30 days.

D. Junior Achievement Program Report

Denise Drebes, District Manager for Junior Achievement (JA), Emily Robbearts, Executive Director of United Way of Adams County and Maddie Corder, QPS College and Career Counselor provided an update on the Junior Achievement program. Denise reviewed the 2015-2016 school year noting the programs implemented as well as the number of students served by JA and the number of volunteers involved with the program. The success of the *Start with The End in Mind: JA Career Fair* was highlighted, she shared that they plan to repeat the career fair next year. Maddie commented on how valuable the JA Programs are as a foundation for the students in QPS. Denise also addressed the challenges that they experienced this year, which included the quantity of and commitment of some volunteers, difficulty with implementation of two programs and communication between teachers and volunteers.

Denise highlighted 2 new proposed programs for QPS:

- 5th Grade: *JA Biztown*
- 7th Grade: *JA It's My Future*

Denise discussed the costs and logistics for students to attend BizTown which is located in Chesterfield, Missouri. Denise and Emily pointed out that JA partner funding with United Way will be fully implemented this year. JA will take over the classroom based funding but United Way will continue to provide funding for special needs and programs. Emily commented on the alignment between JA program goals and the goals of the Adams County Work Readiness Initiative. Emily also commented on the relationship between United Way and JA stating it is strong and evolving. Sheldon asked for a motion to approve the 2 proposed JA Curriculums, *JA Biztown* and *JA It's My Future*. A motion was made by member Arnold and seconded by member Cashman.

E. Curriculum Development Guide

The Curriculum Development Guide has been on the table for 30 days. The process used to compose the curriculum guide was discussed. Carol noted that any policy contained in the Curriculum Development Guide is QPS School Board policy. The terminology and language used in the policies was discussed and Sheldon shared that we cannot change the language of the policies; they are changed as the policies are updated by the Illinois School Board Association PRESS policy service when the Illinois School Code changes. Carol stated that the policies are used as the foundation to develop and align QPS Curriculum. Sheldon noted that concerns expressed by committee members about terminology contained in the policies can be presented to the Policy Committee. Carol and Julie stated that the Curriculum Development Guide document can be reconfigured; grouping all of the policies together in a section separate from the curriculum section. Member Bailey asked for a motion to approve the Curriculum Guide, a motion was made by member Rose and seconded by member Bailey. When put to a vote with the rest of the committee the motion failed. It was decided to table approving the Curriculum Development Guide and continue the discussion at the next Curriculum Committee meeting in July.

4. Recommend to the Board of Education for Action –

- Member Bailey asked for a motion to accept the recommendation to extend the SAGR Task Force goals to the 2017-2018 school year, a motion was made by member Teter and seconded by member

Arnold. The task force will come back to Curriculum Committee mid-year of the 2016-2017 school year to make a recommendation on a completion date.

- Member Bailey asked for a motion to recommend to the Board to approve the 2 proposed JA Curriculums, *JA Biztown* and *JA It's My Future*. A motion was made by member Arnold and seconded by member Cashman.

5. Consider any other matter relating to the curriculum needs or concerns of the district -

Topics Raised by Committee Members – The proposed dates for 2016-2017 Curriculum Committee meeting dates were presented. Member Arnold commented on the recognition for retirees during the end of year program at QJHS.

6. Adjourn – 6:59 p.m.

Next Meeting – July 11, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. RM 231 BOE