

Quincy Public Schools Curriculum Committee Minutes

Board Office Conference Room #231

January 14 – 5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee members present: Ann Behrens, Mary Christensen, Jan Cory, Cindy Crow, Steve Krause, Jeff Mays, Jody Steinke, Patricia Viniard.

Committee member(s) absent: Jim Rubottom.

Board members, staff and others: Chrissy Cox, Sara Cramer, Christie Dickens, Danielle Edgar, Laurie Fiorenza, Heather Friday, Ed Husar, Jeff Kerkhoff, Cal Lee, Rick Owsley, Rachel Robison, Melanie Schrand, Dan Sparrow, Marcey Wells, Kendra Whittle, Jan Zeidler.

1. Call to order

Steve Krause, committee chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Information provided to Committee

Review of School Improvement Plans. Committee members heard an overview and summary of School Improvement Plans for the following schools.

Quincy Senior High: Principal Danielle Edgar discussed the results of the PSAE, as well as other tests administered to students at QHS. While 2012 shows some decline in students meeting/exceeding standards, a review of Stanford Achievement Test historical trends show that QHS students make average yearly growth and NCE is slightly above average scores. Additionally, QHS students tend to score slightly better than the national average on the PLAN. Danielle also noted an increase in the number of students enrolling in AP courses and taking the AP exam, with an increased number of students scoring 3 or higher on the exam. It was noted that opportunities available for acceleration and interventions for struggling students are having a positive impact. Improving the performance of students in the middle is needed, and Danielle noted an instructional shift QHS where students are more engaged in their learning will help all students be better prepared for college and career-ready. She said reinstatement of department chairs would be beneficial in implementation.

Quincy Junior High: Principal Dan Sparrow stated that as a new principal this year, he conducted a climate survey to staff in May 2012 to help guide the school improvement process. He noted that ISAT data shows an overall decline since 2007. For 2012, the number of African American and economically disadvantaged students meeting/exceeding in reading increased. Data from the climate survey indicates that student discipline is an issue. As a result, QJHS implemented a new discipline policy and procedures for 2012-13 to foster a positive school environment. Dan also noted the impact of budget cuts, which have increased class sizes and eliminated electives (such as Exploratory Arts) that were often a way for disengaged students to explore areas of interest.

Baldwin: Principals Melanie Schrand and Cindy Crow reported that for 2012, Baldwin School experienced a decline in all subgroups meeting/exceeding standards. Stanford data shows that 30% of students are performing below minimum standards in reading and 36% are below minimum standards in math. The goals for Baldwin are to strengthen core classroom instruction in the areas of reading/writing and math. The principals discussed the need for professional development to

accomplish this. They also discussed the challenges of losing eight staff members over the past three years and the limited amount of intervention available for those students who need more support beyond classroom instruction. Each Baldwin section has one literacy coach and one half-time intervention person to serve approximately 500 students. There is one full-time math intervention person for the entire school. Extended day opportunities are available through Title I, but it is a challenge to get parental buy-in.

Adams: Principal Marcey Wells reported that 2012 was the first year that Adams 3rd grade students did not make AYP. Adams Elementary has experienced an increase in enrollment, low income, and mobility and a decrease in the attendance rate. Goals for 2012-13 include aligning instruction to the Common Core State Standards, increasing writing about reading, and implementing the workshop approach in math that will include more writing.

Washington: This is the second year that Washington School 3rd grade students did not make AYP. Principal Sara Cramer provided data showing a decrease in the number of students meeting/exceeding from 2011 to 2012. Washington enrollment has increased, and they have the highest low income rate in the district (94.2% of students qualify for free/reduced lunch). Sara noted that there is an even greater achievement gap for students with nine or more absences. She said that Washington students experience summer regression, so they would like to see a longer school day and more school days. Considering the extreme high poverty rate, Sara said redrawing district boundaries to provide a more heterogeneous student group would be beneficial.

Berrian: Principal Chrissy Cox reported improved scores on the 2012 ISAT, with an increase in students who met/exceeded in reading of 14% and in math of 3%. The improvement in reading represents the highest reading scores for Berrian since 2007. Berrian has the second highest low income rate in the district (89%), and a high mobility rate (31%). Regarding the mobility rate, Chrissy said out of the 55 third-graders taking the 2012 ISAT, only 16 had attended all four years at Berrian.

Some common areas discussed in all School Improvement Plans were:

- All schools have identified the need aligning curriculum to the Common Core State Standards and time for staff to be ready to implement.
- Achievement for IEP students dropped significantly from 2011 to 2012. For the 2012 ISAT, there was a higher number of IEP students required to take the ISAT who had formerly been allowed to take the Alternative Assessment.
- The criteria for chronic truancy changed for 2011-12 from 18 unexcused absences to nine. This caused some increase in reported truancy rates.

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: 6:52 p.m.**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 11, 2013 – 5:00 p.m.