

# QUINCY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## TEACHING AND LEARNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 11, 2012

A meeting of the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee was held on Monday, June 11, 2012 at 4:30 pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at the NAGE Building. Present were Mr. Paul Bregoli, Ms. Barbara Isola, and Mrs. Emily Lebo, Chair. Also attending were Superintendent DeCristofaro, Assistant Superintendent Colleen Roberts, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mr. Kevin Mulvey, Mrs. Mary Fredrickson, Ms. Beth Hallett, Mrs. Maura Papile, Ms. Judy Todd and Ms. Allison Cox, President, Quincy Education Association.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Mrs. Lebo.

The first item was the presentation of the Screening for the Elementary Laboratory Center (ELC) and Advanced Placement Center (APC). Mrs. Roberts reviewed the procedure and timeline of how Grade 4 students who show evidence of giftedness are identified and assessed. All Grade 4 students take the Otis-Lennon Assessment in the fall; additional assessment information is reviewed, including the English Language Arts and Mathematics Scaled Scores on the Grade 3 MCAS and the School Ability Index (SAI) from the Otis-Lennon. Students who document an Advanced score on the MCAS in ELA or Math and/or have a SAI of 120 or higher are recommended to participate in the Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary and Middle School Students (SAGES-2) to further measure aptitude and achievement. Parents of students recommended to participate in the SAGES-2 screening are notified by a letter requesting permission for the assessment and providing a packet that needs to be completed by the parent to provide additional information to the Screening Team. Parents whose children are not initially recommended by their school may also refer their student for SAGES-2 administration. The SAGES-2 is administered in the spring by the elementary school principals. Results from the SAGES-2 are reviewed by the Gifted Team, who recommends acceptance to the ELC program. Parents are notified of their student's SAGES-2 Assessment results and acceptance status in a letter mailed to homes. Mrs. Roberts noted that parents can appeal the ELC acceptance decision.

Students who complete the ELC program are enrolled in the APC upon completion of Grade 5, with their parents' permission. Students who move in to Quincy in Grade 5 and are identified as potentially gifted are referred for SAGES-2 administration in the spring of Grade 5. Students who attend private schools in Quincy may also participate in SAGES-2 at this time. Mrs. Lebo asked if the notification letters were sent out in multiple languages. Mrs. Roberts replied that

the notification letters are sent out in both English and Chinese. Mrs. Lebo requested that a presentation about the ELC and APC Screening be scheduled for Fall 2012 in advance of notification to Grade 4 and 5 parents regarding the administration of testing for giftedness.

Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Fredrickson then gave a presentation about the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Waiver* that was approved for Massachusetts in February, 2012. Massachusetts has been granted approval to waive the NCLB requirement to measure Adequate Yearly Progress towards 100% proficiency (AYP) and classify schools based upon NCLB Designations of: Identified for Improvement, Corrective Action and Restructuring. Massachusetts will replace the (Federal) AYP system and NCLB labels with Massachusetts Accountability and Assistance Levels for all Districts and Schools, and expand the State system to meet Federal Waiver requirements. DESE will replace the AYP Performance Target of 100% Proficiency by 2014 with the revised goal: to Reduce the Proficiency Gap by half by 2016-17. AYP targets and calculations will be replaced with Progress and Performance Targets (PPI) that will be calculated with the goal of decreasing Proficiency Gaps (the distance between 2011 Achievement and 100% Proficiency) by half by 2016-17. The new DESE Accountability System will also expand the focus on subgroup progress and create a new subgroup: the High Needs subgroup, comprised of students who receive Special Education services, or are former or current English Language Learners or who are from families that meet low income guidelines.

DESE will classify schools into Levels 1-5, with Level 1 being the highest, utilizing a 4-Year Progress and Performance Index (PPI) that gives the greatest 'weight' to the 2012 data (40%) followed by a 30%, 20%, 10% weighting of 2011, 2010 and 2009 data. PPI calculations will focus on Achievement (CPI) in English Language Arts, Math & Science, Growth (SGP) for English Language Arts, & Math and the High School PPI will incorporate Graduation and Drop Out rates. Points will be awarded (ranging from 100, 75, 50, 25, 0) for each PPI Indicator. DESE will release a District and School spreadsheet delineating 60% of the PPI target information (2011, 2010 & 2009 data) by mid-June and final determinations of PPI and Levels of Schools will be announced in late August. Districts will be classified to match the lowest level school in the District; Quincy is currently classified as a Level 3 District (matching four Level 3 schools).

Additional components of the Approved NCLB Waiver include eliminating the requirement that School Choice and Supplemental Education Services (SES) are provided; these requirements have been replaced with an emphasis on providing supports and interventions that are responsive to student needs. The Massachusetts Waiver Application Approval was contingent upon adoption of college and career-ready standards and assessments (Common Core) and implementation of an educator evaluation system.

DESE has consolidated information for Districts and Schools on the new **District Analysis, Review & Assistance Tools (DART) webpage**: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/apa/dart>. Schools will be able to find the DART for schools, district and ELLs, a spreadsheet that displays figures and charts of information about demographics and achievement in Massachusetts schools.

Mrs. Roberts provided additional narration regarding how the Waiver will provide options for flexible use of Title I and Title IIA funding to address the needs of the lowest achieving students in the lowest achieving schools. Mrs. Roberts also noted that Quincy will be consulting DSAC representatives, as required, regarding the use of Title I and Title IIA funds and about how Quincy will implement components of the “Conditions For School Effectiveness” (known as the **CSE**) in improvement planning. Quincy Teams will focus on CSE Indicators 2, 3 and 4, pertinent to Aligned Curriculum, Effective Instruction and Student Assessments.

Mrs. Roberts clarified that the School Improvement Plans of the future will be impacted by the NCLB Waiver; schools will no longer set goals to meet AYP targets. School Improvement Goals will focus on the new Massachusetts improvement targets and full implementation of the Common Core.

Mrs. Lebo asked if Quincy knew yet about Title I funds. Mrs. Roberts indicated that specific information regarding Title 1 allocations has not yet been released.

Mrs. Roberts gave a brief Common Core and Curriculum Update, noting that additional Curriculum will be piloted in Math in grades 6-8. Interested Math teachers will review new textbooks and supplementary Curriculum and create Curriculum Maps for their grade-level colleagues. Pacing Guides will be developed for Math in grades 4-8.

Mrs. Lebo made a motion to adjourn the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meeting at 5:50 pm. Ms. Isola seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.