

QUINCY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TEACHING AND LEARNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 14, 2012

A meeting of the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee was held on Monday, May 14, 2012 at 4:30 pm in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at the NAGE Building. Present were Mr. Paul Bregoli, Mrs. Kathryn Hubley, Ms. Barbara Isola, and Mrs. Emily Lebo, Chair. Also attending were Superintendent DeCristofaro, Assistant Superintendent Colleen Roberts, Mr. Keith Segalla, Mrs. Mary Fredrickson, Ms. Beth Hallett, Ms. Paula McGeady, Mrs. Maura Papile, Ms. Helena Skinner, Ms. Judy Todd; Ms. Allison Cox, President, Quincy Education Association; and Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm by Mrs. Lebo.

At the request of Mrs. Papile, the agenda was taken out of order and the first item was the presentation of the Naviance system. Ms. Skinner, Guidance Department Head at North Quincy High School and Ms. McGeady, Guidance Department Head at Quincy High School reviewed how students use this system for college and career planning. Students begin using Naviance in Grade 9 by creating a career interest profile. Students can use the system to choose courses for subsequent school years and the information gets uploaded into Starbase. Naviance helps organize the college application process and submission deadlines for students and school staff. It has a module that allows a student to create a personality profile, using strengths and interests to match them with potential careers and colleges that offer relevant majors and links students to the Massachusetts Career Information System. Guidance counselors can upload documents to share, document meetings, create surveys (i.e., graduation survey for tracking post-graduate plans). Ms. McGeady noted that Naviance allows guidance counselors to submit transcripts, evaluations, forms, and recommendations to colleges electronically.

Mr. Bregoli inquired about the number of students and parents using the system. All students at both high schools use the system, parents participate most beginning at the end of junior year. Mr. Bregoli suggested doing outreach and possibly collecting emails at registration. Ms. Isola noted that from her own experience, parents don't have to register for Naviance; some parents access directly through their children's accounts.

Ms. Lebo asked whether this could work for graduate follow-up. Ms. Skinner said theoretically, yes, but it is very difficult to get after-graduation participation. There was only 30% response when it was tried previously. There is another option through the National Clearinghouse, but

there is a cost associated with this. Mrs. Lebo suggested researching the costs and whether there is a good match between post-secondary institutions that are members and the schools QPS graduates attend.

Dr. DeCristofaro thanked both high school Guidance department heads for everything they do; it is a tremendous job to manage so many students and the college admissions process. Ms. Isola echoed Dr. DeCristofaro, saying the guidance staff and Naviance made a huge difference with her family and the college admissions process.

The Subcommittee then returned to the order of the agenda and the Review of Alternative Programs was given by Mrs. Papile and Ms. Todd. For the alternative programs QPS offers, each student is required to meet state benchmarks and receive instruction in curriculum aligned with state frameworks in the five academic subject areas. These programs sometimes provide therapeutic interventions, group and individual counseling, childcare services, drug and alcohol counseling, parenting programs, and connect students and families to outside services. Program coordinators and teachers are committed to these populations and engaging students so they can experience success. Students in these programs often need to experience a sense of belonging and have higher social-emotional barriers to success.

Quincy Evening High School: To enter, a student must have 50 graduation credits, a 504 or IEP, documentation through WIB, and meet low-income criteria. These are high-risk students; there is detailed follow-up at 8, 10, and 12 months post-graduate. Graduation rates: 2009-10, 83%, 59 graduates; 2010-11, 98%, 44 graduates; currently 45 active students. Mrs. Lebo asked if students are referred to this program for behavioral issues. Ms. Todd clarified that the High School Placement Team recommends the students who come here for a variety of high-risk issues.

The *Quincy Teen Mothers Program* is for students with a child under three years of age. Graduation rates: 2008-09, 90%, 10 graduates; 2009-10: 90%, 7 graduates; 2010-11: 92%, 6 graduates. Ms. Isola asked if surrounding communities have similar programs. Mrs. Papile replied that Quincy's program is unique because of the on-site daycare component. Ms. Isola also asked if students move here because of the program. Both Dr. DeCristofaro and Mrs. Papile agreed that these are Quincy students. Dr. De Cristofaro stated that most of the program's expenses are covered by long-term grant funding, including the coordinator salary. Mrs. Lebo asked if students access programs at Quincy High School and Mrs. Papile noted that they attend Career and Technical Education programs, but academics are separate. Mr. Bregoli inquired about the student age ranges and Mrs. Papile said the average student is between 16 and 18, rarely younger.

The *GOALS* program is for students with emotional disorders in the behavior realm who are not ready for mainstream high school. There are currently 34 students in Grades 8-12, referred through the Middle and High School Placement Teams. The goal for each student is to transition to high school, but that is not always the case. Three students are graduating this year, five students graduated in 2011, and three graduated in 2010.

The *PASS* program is for students with anxiety, depression, and school phobia; these students have average or above-average academic ability. The program's goal is to mainstream the students to high school for part of the day. Graduation rate: 2010: two graduates; 2011: two graduates; 2012: five graduates. There are currently 25 students in the program.

Mrs. Roberts gave a brief Common Core Update, noting that the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) were just released last Friday, May 11. There was an informational meeting today, which some QPS staff attended. The Standards are currently in the Open Comment period.

Information on the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) waiver will be presented at Wednesday's School Committee meeting.

The next Teaching and Learning Subcommittee Meeting is Monday, June 11 at 4:30 pm.

Mrs. Lebo made a motion to adjourn the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meeting at 5:30 pm. Ms. Isola seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.