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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Response to Public Comment from Dr. Todd Porter Regarding Literacy – BOE Meeting May 17, 2023

At Quincy Public Schools, we believe that it is important that we, as educators, stay current with research and evidence-based practices to ensure all our students have an opportunity to learn and succeed. Using this information combined with QPS student data and teacher feedback, our educators and administrators make informed decisions on classroom instruction based on our student needs and evidence related to best practices in teaching and learning.

Our current QPS literacy curriculum includes a comprehensive literacy framework which incorporates Reading Foundational Skills (K-3), Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, and Language aligned to state standards.

To ensure our teachers have high quality instructional resources and tools to use for teaching and lesson planning, we have developed a process to evaluate our curriculum annually by gathering teacher feedback and reviewing student data. In addition, we have a process that is designed to evaluate our current instructional resources and determine if new resources may be needed.

During the 2022-2023 school year, we began to explore new instructional resources for educators to use when planning for K-5 literacy and math curriculum. This process, plan, and timeline was vetted and supported through the District Improvement Committee (April meeting), shared with the full QPS Board of Education (April meeting), and shared with K-5 educators in May.

The plan includes an opportunity for a pilot of new resources during the 2023-2024 school year. The three literacy resources that QPS is considering for a fall pilot, meet the Science of Reading research. The resources cover each of the evidence-based skills that students need to read effectively: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Comprehension, and Fluency through explicit and systematic instruction. Piloting new resources is not uncommon in education. A pilot typically includes a small sample of intended users in real-work conditions to test the feasibility of implementing the larger initiative to determine benefits to scale. Our process allows all pilot materials to be available for a 30-day public review after the June QPS Regular Board of Education meeting. While some teachers will be piloting a new resource next year, all teachers will continue to provide comprehensive literacy instruction to all students, as we always have.

Dr. Todd Pettit, Superintendent

Educate students and teachers to achieve personal excellence.