

UPDATE

Quincy Public
Schools
Newsletter

Issue No. 2

September 25, 2014



EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE BID—FY 15

Last year, the Quincy School District changed its method of providing health insurance for its employees from self-insured to a fully insured group medical plan. At that time, bids were sought for the coverage. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, (BCBSIL), was the lowest responsible bidder and has been the District's provider for the past year. The bid was for just a single year and bids were sought for the upcoming year. Business Manager Joel Murphy explained that a single bid was received from BSBSIL. This is not unusual since the coverage could not deviate from the District's current plan due to provisions in collective bargaining agreements. The Board approved the bid from BCBSIL for an estimated total annual premium of \$8,314.625 which is an increase of 5.34% over last year. Per the collective bargaining agreements, the employee share of the health insurance premium is fixed for the next two years and cannot be increased. The School District will need to cover the total increase estimated to be 6.26% over last year. The District FY15 Budget includes this increase.

READING RECOVERY & LITERACY LESSONS

Julie Stratman, Elementary Curriculum Director and Tracee Farmer, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, presented information to the Board on the District's Reading Recovery Program. First graders who struggle with early reading and writing skills meet individually for 30-minute lessons with a highly trained Reading Recovery teacher daily for 12 to 20 weeks. The District has 17 Reading Recovery teachers and also provides training for several area schools. Lessons are planned to build on the knowledge and strengths of each child. There are over 100 research studies documenting the effectiveness of Reading Recovery as an early literacy intervention. Of the 153 different reading programs reviewed by the *What Works Clearinghouse*, only Reading Recovery had 'strong evidence' that it improved reading achievement. The goal is for children to reach first grade proficiency after completing the program. Students who do not reach the goal make gains and additional tutoring is provided to reach proficiency.



DIGITAL CONVERSION PLAN UNVEILED

The Quincy Public Schools and the QPS Foundation announced their new *Digital Conversion for Teaching & Learning Initiative* at the September School Board meeting. This plan is aligned with the district mission to utilize information and communication technology and digital learning resources in a blended learning environment and is based on extensive research and benchmarking. This digital conversion plan is possible because of the generosity of the Quincy community. In addition to the major partnership with Knapheide Manufacturing that brought wireless into every building, the QPS Foundation has given more than \$550,000 over the past year to provide devices and technology training to the district. The Foundation will continue to offer financial and community support to provide QPS students with the technology they need to be successful. More information about the plan can be found on the District's website: www.qps.org

PERSONNEL

Appointments:/Change in Assignment: MADALYN FILIPI-AK—K12 COLLEGE /CAREER COUNSELOR QHS. EILEEN MALONE-KDG ELLINGTON. MOLLY SHRIVER-CLINICAL NURSE INSTRUCTOR QAVTC. CAROL CARROLL-CLINICAL NURSE INSTRUCTOR QAVTC. SHERRI KRAGEL—PARA MONROE. PHYLCIA MANLEY—TAOEP FAM LIAISON/TUTOR QHS/QJHS. BRANDY LOGSDON-GUIDANCE SECY QHS. DIEDERICK KUIJPER—HELP DESK TECH DISTRICT. RODNEY HODGES—NIGHT CUST QJHS. AUDREY WOODWORTH—PARA QJHS. JULIE BOCKE—GUIDANCE SECY QHS. IAN MCUMBER-HOUSE—HELP DESK TECH DISTRICT. MARK VOSE—DRIVER AM-PM IFT ROUTE. GENE EAST—DRIVER AM-PM IFT ROUTE. ELISHA WAGNER—DRIVER AM-PM IFT ROUTE. DARLA RARDON—RIDER MIDDAY NON-UNION ROUTE-RETAIN 4 HRS/DAY ROUTE. MATT HARMON—RIDER MIDDAY NON-UNION ROUTE. RETAINS 4 HRS/DAY ROUTE. LINDA LITTLE—DRIVER AM-PM IFT ROUTE. DON DURBIN—DRIVER PM IFT ROUTE. NICOLE SCRANTON—HELP DESK TECH DISTRICT VICKY6 JACKSON—DRIVER AM-PM IFT. RACHELLE HESSLING—RIDER AM-PM NON UNION. MARY FREDERICKS—RIDER AM-PM NON UNION.

Resignations: MEGHAN ROBINSON—RIDER. RUTH ANGELES—RIDER. KENDRICK DOUGLAS—DRIVER. AMY HERMAN—PARA ECFC. TIM GEARIN—PARA ECFC. MELANIE ZEHNLE—PARA WASH. AMANDA ROBERTS—PARA BALDWIN. ERIC HOKE-QHS/QJHS HEAD SOFTBALL COACH.

Leave of Absence: KATIE BAILEY-ENG QHS. MAT LEAVE APPROX 1/12/15 THROUGH 2/23/15. SARA CRAMER—PRIN WASH. APPROX 9/29/14 THROUGH 10/10/14. MICHELLE REYNOLDS—REI BALDWIN W. MAT LEAVE APPROX 10/11/14 THROUGH 11/24/14. ANNIE MEYER—SP ED QJHS. 9/1/14 AS NEEDED. KAILEE NIEMANN FLESCHE—MATH QHS. MAT LEAVE APPROX 8/4/14 THROUGH 9/26/14. MEGHAN GOEHL—RDG BERRIAN. MAT LEAVE APPROX 10/7/14 THROUGH 1/5/15. MEGHAN GOETZ—ELLINGTON EXT MAT LEAVE FROM 6WKS TO 8 WKS 7/25/14 TO 10/3/14. EMY HILGENBRINCK—PARA WASH APPROX 8/25/15 THROUGH 10/17/14. PENNY LUDWIG—PARA QHS APPROX 9/9/14 THROUGH 10/1/14. JULIE RUPERT—BOE APPROX 9/29/14 THROUGH 10/27/14.

Retirement: JUDY AGRABRIGHT—PARA/LIBRARIAN MADISON. 11/3/14.

HOMEcomings SCHEDULE

Thursday, Sept 25 6pm Homecoming Parade—
from QJHS to QHS

Friday, Sept 26 1:30pm Pep Assembly - QHS

Friday, Sept 26 7:30pm Homecoming Football game at Flinn

Saturday, Sept 27 7:00pm Homecoming Dance at QHS

Quincy Public Schools

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Quincy, IL 62301

Phone: 217-223-8700
Fax: 217-228-7162
Website: www.qps.org



Appliances for sale – all in good working condition:
Amana refrigerator – white, side by side with ice and water in the door, \$200
Whirlpool dishwasher – white, 6 years old, \$100
Microwave – white, \$50
Please call 228-7158 ext 2244

2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

At the September 24th meeting, the Board approved the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget. There were amendments to the tentative budget presented last month. The budget calls for \$70.2 million in expenditures and \$68.9 million in revenue. The \$1.3 million deficit is largely due to pending life-safety projects. The revenue for those projects is not reflected in the 2014-15 budget because the money arrived last fiscal year. Mr. Murphy explained adjustments to Federal monies with an increase of \$118,190 mainly due to an increase in Title I funding. On the expense side, there is a projected decrease of \$96,169 in all funds due to a review of all accounts in a comparison of last year's actuals. In the Education Fund, requests were reduced by \$70,622 and in the IMRF/Social Security Fund the reductions were \$25,547.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STAFF

Workers' Compensation Reporting – If you are injured on the job, you must complete an injury report *as soon as possible*. Injury reports are located in the main office of your building. After completing a report, please have your building administrator read and sign the report. The report should be sent to the BOE—Attention Teresa Kemp.

Safety Concerns—If you see anything in your building that may be a safety concern. Please report this concern immediately to our Risk Management Department. They can be reached during the day at 228-4084 and after hours at 221-3480.