

# UPDATE

Quincy Public  
Schools  
Newsletter

Issue No. 2

September 25, 2013

## FACILITIES REPORT

Business Manager Joel Murphy presented a report on the district's facilities at the September Board meeting. A team of maintenance staff and architectural/engineering representatives conducted the district-wide appraisal. Some of the basic information provided to the nine-member team included enrollment history and projections, capacity analysis, floor plans, energy and operating costs, and renewal and replacement schedule. Team members used a scoring method to appraise the buildings. No facility rated higher than Satisfactory. Seven out of 12 of our active facilities were rated Borderline, six of those are K-3 buildings. Some of the findings included undersized gyms and cafeterias, restrooms located only on one floor, limited technology access, small classrooms, lack of specialized learning areas, undersized libraries, and inadequate parking and parent drop off areas. Many facilities are deteriorating due to age and are costly to maintain. Mr. Murphy said that Quincy has great schools but not so great facilities. A good teacher can teach anywhere but our physical structures are limiting the learning experience. Studies support that students do better when they: hear well, see well, are not packed into small spaces, noise is not distracting, lighting and air quality is good and heat and cooling are balanced. A Milwaukee study suggests that facility conditions have stronger affect on performance than such factors as family background, socio-economic status, attendance and behavior. The visual environment is one of the most important factors in learning, affecting mental attitude, class attendance, and performance. Many School Board members have talked about the possibility of building some new schools rather than pump millions of dollars of Life Safety funds into ongoing repair of aging facilities. Decisions would need to be made on how many new schools, where they would be located, what grades they would serve, and how to finance construction. Public input will be sought on what should be done. The configuration of grades in buildings will need to be considered. One option is K-5 elementary buildings, 6-8 at QJHS and 9-12 at QHS. Public meetings will be held prior to the October Board meeting to hear from the community. Several Board members agreed that something needs to be done and a plan needs to be developed for the community's consideration.



## ACADEMIC REPORT

Elementary Academic Director Julie Stratman and Secondary Academic Director Carol Frericks reported to the Board on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test taken last spring. The results will be made available to the public in late October when annual "School Report Cards" are released. Mrs. Frericks explained that the Illinois State Board of Education has raised the ISAT cut scores for students tested in grades 3-8. As a result, student performance numbers will reflect that change. She said it is similar to changing a grading scale from 90-100 is an A to 95-100 is an A. Not as many students will receive an 'A'. In the same way, ISAT scores are lower. That does not mean that students are performing differently. When compared to last year's scale, scores have remained stable. Other data that will be included in ISBE School Report Cards is results of the 5Essentials survey which was voluntary for parents last year and Prairie State Achievement results required for 11th grade students. Superintendent Steve Cobb said that the scores will serve as a baseline for the new administrative team and building leaders as they work to improve student learning.

## PERSONNEL

### Appointments/Change in Assignment Certified:

STEPHANIE DITTMER-CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR-  
QAVTC HEALTH OCC. ALISA SANDERS—KDG  
MONROE. DENISE PRESSER-SPEC ED BALDWIN  
RYAN WIEMELT--QHS LUNCH RM SUPVR. CHAD  
STRUCK-QHS LUNCH RM SUPVR. TAMI REDD  
PBIS COACH ECFC. JESSICA HUCKEY-PBIS  
COACH BALDWIN N. KELLY LAWSON-PBIC INTER-  
NAL COACH QHS. KAYLA GRIFFIN-7TH/8TH  
CROSS CTRY COACH QJHS. ANGELA COOPER-  
MATH TEAM SPONSOR QHS. BRIAN WALKER-7TH  
HEAD BOYS BASKETBALL COACH. BRAD DANCE-8TH  
HEAD BOYS BASKETBALL COACH. DANA TRANTOR-  
ADDL VOCATIONAL ASSIGNMENT. SIGNE OAKLEY—  
VOCATION SP ED LIVING SKILLS. JAMIE LUDWIG—  
DRAMA CLUB SPONSOR BALDWIN. TAWNYA SPAR-  
ROW, JENNIFER DICKERMAN—TITLE 1 RDG MATH TU-  
TORS-NON PUBLIC.

21st CCLC Extended Day—BRENDA STADLER, VONDA  
JACOBY, PAM HOLIDAY, BRANDY MANY, STEPHANIE  
PETERS, KELLEY LAWSON, MARANDA MEYER, DANA  
RIGG, JOEL DOUGHTERY.

ABC/ACRSS PBIS—RACHEL PACEY, CASEY LITTLE,  
JOHN LUMPSKIN, STEPHANIE BURRY

Appointments/Change in Assignments Support Staff: CHRIS-  
TINA TERSTEGGE—PARA DEWEY. DAVID MCNEILLY-  
DAY CUSTODIAN MONROE (PREVIOUS NIGHT). PAT-  
RICK CARROLL—ISS BALDWIN NO. MYRA KUHN—  
PARA QHS. VALARIE BORDENKIRCHER—ISS BALDWIN  
S. (PREVIOUS PARA). LAUREN ASPEL—PARA DEWEY.  
ROBERT MEGEE-SECURITY. GARRETT RUFFIN—TAOEP  
TUTOR/MENTOR QHS/QJHS. DAVID MCNEILLY—NIGHT  
CUSTODIAN QJHS. LESTER OREBAUGH—DAY CUSTO-  
DIAN MONROE. ROBERT CAMPBELL—SECURITY.  
GREG WINGERTER—SECURITY.

Resignations: JENNI MORAN—DRAMA CLUB SPONSOR  
8/1/13. MIKE RUDD—7TH /8TH GRADE BASKETBALL  
COACH 9/10/13. TERESA LOCKETT—FOOD SERVICE  
BALDWIN 9/11/13. CARLA SHANK—PARA ADAMS  
9/30/13.

Leave of Absence: REBECCA GOSNELL-ADAMS. EXTEND  
TO APPROXIMATELY 11/1/13. JOE HARRIS—  
CUSTODIAN BALDWIN BEGINNING 7/6/13. LARRY  
SLATER—CUSTODIAN MADISON BEGINNING 9/5/13.  
THOMAS NIEHOFF—CUSTODIAN QJHS BEGINNING  
7/26/13.



### CONGRATULATIONS!

Brenda Fleer, QJHS Teacher  
WGEM Golden Apple Award Recipient

## Quincy Public Schools

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Website: [www.qps.org](http://www.qps.org)



### CLASSIFIED—

- **FOR SALE:** 1977 Sylvan Pontoon. Good condition. 35 ft. trailer, 40 horse motor. \$5,500 OBO. 242-8009
- **FOR SALE:** 2004 Honda Civic—4 door, 94,000 miles \$5,600. 653-5541.

### DRUG TESTING

Board Policy Committee Chairman Sheldon Bailey reported that the committee continued the discussion regarding drug testing of students in extracurricular activities. Information from other schools who conduct testing was reviewed. Mike Hancox, Adams County Probation Department, provided data on the drug testing process, numbers of offenders, and the increase in the abuse of prescription drugs. Policy Chairman Sheldon Bailey compiled answers to many of questions from the committee and community members. The questions/answers are available on the district's website: [www.qps.org](http://www.qps.org).

### 2013-14 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

At the September 25th meeting, the Board of Education approved the 2013-14 fiscal year budget. There were no amendments to the tentative budget presented last month. Mr. Murphy explained there is a projected 4.7% increase in local revenue, a 3.3% decrease in State revenue and a 7.8% increase in Federal revenue. QPS salaries and benefits are the largest part of the budget at 63%. All funds are currently balanced with the exception of Transportation due to the State's reduction in reimbursement. Last year's expenses were \$72.8 million with revenue at \$75.9 million. This year, revenue is estimated at \$76 million with expenditures at \$77 million.

