



Quincy Public Schools

UPDATE

November 19, 2025

SUPERINTENDENT BOARD MEETING UPDATE

Superintendent Dr. Lee reported that the OpenGate security system is operating effectively and that his recent visit to Iles, even with the added excitement of roller-skating and pajama day, went smoothly. He recognized Security Guards Tim Waterkotte and Anthony Oliver for their outstanding work and emphasized the vital role support staff play in fostering positive student connections. Dr. Lee continues to meet with community and faith leaders to increase awareness of QPS's financial challenges and ongoing teacher shortages, noting that the district remains significantly underfunded. These outreach efforts will continue as the district works to broaden understanding and support.

Staffing, Recruitment & Retention Update Director of Personnel, Lisa Otten reported that QPS still has nearly 30 teaching vacancies across multiple buildings, which continue to strain student learning, staff workload, and overall morale. Despite hiring more than 60 non-certified teachers through the Competency-Based Education Waiver in recent years, shortages persist, worsened by low starting salaries, mid-year resignations, and a drastic decline in qualified applicants. Some candidates withdraw because they cannot afford to live on teacher pay, leaving QPS to rely on long-term substitutes, class consolidation, purchasing planning periods, and limited online instruction to keep classrooms staffed. Recruitment efforts include teacher residency programs, partnerships with over 30 universities, hosting student teachers, early recruitment, even at the high school level, and collaboration with Golden Apple. Otten emphasized that attracting and retaining high-quality teachers must be a community priority if QPS wants to ensure strong learning outcomes for students.

Curriculum & Instruction Adjustments Director of Teaching and Learning, Kim Dinkheller outlined the district's instructional support plan for junior high geometry. Students are receiving instruction from a certified Illinois math teacher through Edgenuity, supported daily by a trained long-term substitute in the classroom. Additional measures include virtual tutoring, progress monitoring, adjustments for athletic eligibility, and ongoing parent communication. To further strengthen learning, QPS is upgrading Chrome-books, using high school math-strong students as tutors, offering small-group review sessions, and improving the classroom setup. Dinkheller emphasized that while in-person instruction is always preferred, the district's priority is ensuring continuous learning and strong academic support.

Community Engagement Update Anna Oakley reported continued momentum in the Quincy Forward community engagement process. The committee is preparing for the first public workshop on Tuesday, January 27, to be held at QHS, with a target attendance of 100–200 community members. The session will include presentations on district needs and constraints, followed by community feedback. A rehearsal is planned in early January. Anna noted the group is gaining focus and energy, and the process is progressing well.

PERSONNEL

Appointments/Change in Assignment

LINDSI BIAS – SSFL – LINCOLN-DOUGLAS 11/17/2025
MARY BROCKSIECK – PM DRIVER – TRANSPORTATION 10/20/25
CHRISTINA BURTON - TITLE 1 EXT. DAY TEACHER – ILES 11/10/2025
CHANDRA CRAWFORD - TITLE 1 EXT. DAY TEACHER – ROONEY
11/18/2025
AMY FISCHER – CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR - QAVTC 11/19/2025
ERIN HENKENMEIER - TITLE 1 EXT. DAY TEACHER – ILES 11/10/2025
JACOB HOLLENSTEINER - ASST. VOLUNTEER TRACK AND FIELD JUMPS
COACH – QHS 10/20/2025
HEATHER HUMPHREY - TITLE 1 EXT. DAY TEACHER – ROONEY 11/18/2025
RANDA KORB – CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR - QAVTC 11/14/2025
JESSICA LOOS – QHS EXCEL AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM 10/29/2025
RONALD MANLEY – DRIVER – TRANSPORTATION 10/28/2025
JENNIFER MARTIN – PARA – BALDWIN 11/07/2025
HEATHER MASON – PARA – ROONEY 10/20/2025
LANTY MCGUIRE – INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT 01/05/2026 – 06/20/2026
PAUL MOODY- ASST. VOLUNTEER WRESTLING COACH – QHS 11/06/2025
RUTH ROSENKRANS – PT – CHANGE LOCATION TO ILES 10/30/2025
HOLLIE SHOWALTER - TITLE 1 EXT. DAY TEACHER – ILES 11/10/2025
VICKIE SIMPSON – PARA – QJHS 11/07/2025
PAIGE SNYDER - TITLE 1 EXT. DAY TEACHER – ROONEY 11/18/2025
SASHA TURNER - TITLE 1 EXT. DAY TEACHER – ILES 11/10/2025
ADAM WEIMAN – QJHS COMET CONNECTIONS AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM
10/28/2025
OLIVIA WILLIAMS – PARA – ECFC 10/27/2025
MICHELLE WITTLER – QJHS COMET CONNECTIONS AFTERSCHOOL PRO-
GRAM 10/28/2025

Resignations

ELIZABETH ALONZO – 5TH GRADE CO-TEACHER – DENMAN 11/17/2025
ANGELA BLANCHARD – SSFL – LINCOLN-DOUGLAS 10/31/2025
CHRISTOPHER HELSABECK – MS MATH TEACHER – QJHS 10/31/2025
BEN HUFF – MECHANIC – TRANSPORTATION 11/11/2025
ANDREA JACKSON – PARA – ECFC 11/07/2025
HILLARY MARKS – 2ND GRADE TEACHER – ROONEY 11/06/2025
HANNAH NAUERT – CLASSIFIED NURSE – BALDWIN 12/19/2025
DAWN PATTON – DRIVER – TRANSPORTATION 10/17/2025
LISA SEABOLD – SECRETARY – ILES 12/19/2025
ANNE STRODE – TRANSPORTATION 12/19/2025
TAYLOR VANDERMAIDEN – PARA – ECFC 10/30/2025
KINDELL WEBSTER – SECRETARY – QHS 11/07/2025



Board Recognition – IHSA State Qualifiers

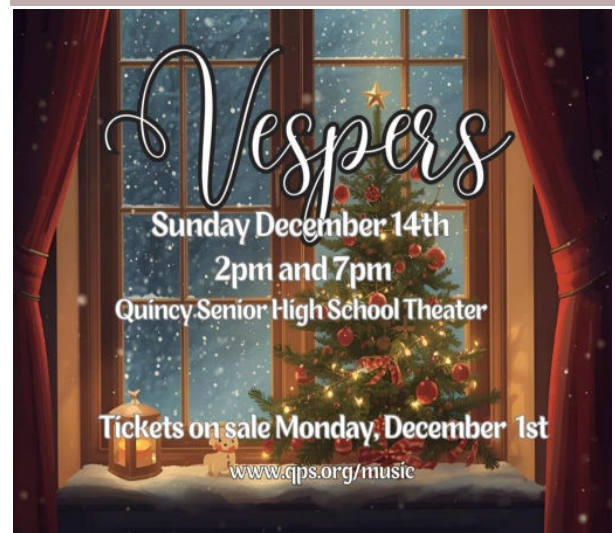
QHS Athletics recognized several fall athletes who qualified for IHSA state competition, with Kris Klingele noting that reaching the state level reflects exceptional dedication and performance. Girls Tennis state qualifiers were Anika Reddy and Alex Hamby, coached by Mike Terry with assistants Rob Hernandez and Brian Holzgrafe. Girls Cross Country state qualifier Peyton Kuhl was recognized as well, coached by Laura McClelland with assistants Matt McClelland and Ryan Kappner.

Quincy Public Schools

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Phone: 217-223-8700
Website: www.qps.org
November 19, 2025
Issue No. 4



**Wednesday, November 26–
Friday, November 28**



The Board also approved:

- Resolution Regarding Estimated Amounts Necessary to be Levied for the Year 2025, set public hearing for 12/17/25, and direct compliance with Truth in Taxation law as necessary
- PaCE Framework
- Bus Bid for 29 buses to Midwest Bus Sales for a five year lease at annual payments of \$665,864.80
- HLS Amendment for ECFC Roof and HVAC
- HLS Amendment for QHS Building B, F, G, and H HVAC and Electrical Up-grade