

UPDATE

Quincy Public
Schools
Newsletter

Issue No. 9

April 23, 2014

2014-15 SCHOOL CALENDAR



Monday, Tuesday, August 18, 19.....	Teacher Institute
Wednesday, August 20.....	First student day (full)
Monday, September 1.....	Labor Day – No School
Monday, October 13.....	Columbus Day – No School
Friday, October 17.....	End of first quarter
Thursday, October 30.....	Parent Teacher Conference- ½ day
Friday, October 31.....	Parent Teacher Conference – No School
Tuesday, November 11.....	Veterans’ Day – No School
Thursday, November 27.....	Thanksgiving Day – No School
Friday, November 28.....	Thanksgiving Vacation – No School
Friday, December 19.....	End of second quarter and first semester
Monday, December 22 – Friday, January 2.....	Winter Break – No School
Monday, January 5.....	No School – Teacher Institute
Tuesday, January 6.....	School resumes for students
Monday, January 19.....	MLK Birthday – No School
Friday, February 13.....	Parent Teacher Conference – ½ day
Monday, February 16.....	President’s day – No School
Friday, March 13.....	End of third quarter
Thursday, April 2 – Monday April 6.....	Spring Break – No School
Tuesday, April 7.....	School resumes
Monday, May 25.....	Memorial Day – No School
Monday, June 1.....	Last Day of School for Students
Tuesday, June 2.....	Teacher Institute

Late start for inclement weather when feasible.

April 2, 6, and June 2 may be used as make-up for snow days if needed.

Dave Boster, Human Resources Director, chaired the Calendar Committee. Members of the committee included representatives from administration and Quincy Federation of Teachers. The Board is reviewing a proposal from the committee for 30-minute early release district-wide next year once per week. For 2013-14, junior high and senior high students have had early release each Wednesday allowing time for teacher collaboration, Professional Learning Community activities, and professional development. All staff would benefit from time for cross collaboration and professional development. The Board plans to make a decision on the district-wide early release by early May.

In other action, the Board approved:

- ECFC Sandblast/Paint Exterior Columns Project at a cost of \$142,975 as submitted by Quincy Industrial Painting. Work will be completed this summer.
- QJHS/QHS Science Course Alignment
- Diesel Equipment Technology Program at QAVTC
- Offer Project Lead the Way Gateway to Technology Foundation Courses as 7th and 8th grade election

PERSONNEL

Appointments—**APRIL ROHN**—DISTRICT FOOD SERVICE SECRETARY 4/23/14. **DEBBY BRADSHAW**—QHS POM COACH FOR 2014-2015.

Resignations (end of 2013-14 school year)—**RACHEL SMITH-QJHS LANG ARTS. AMY BUSS**—WASHINGTON SPEC ED. **JORDAN STEGEMAN**—ADAMS SPEC ED. **JENNIFER BARRY**—BALDWIN S 4TH GRD. **MEGGIE KOCH**—QJHS LANG ARTS. **ANDREW RAINS**—ABC ACADEMY PARA.

Other Resignations—**ADAM HAGE**—ACRSS TEACHER 7/15/14. **TAMMY MABIE**—BALDWIN FOOD SERVICE 3/31/14. **SHAWN KUCH**—MAINTENANCE 2/21/14. **KATHLEEN FUEHRER**—QAVTC PROGRAM ASST 5/1/14. **JEANNA MOWEN**—DRIVER AM-PM IFT ROUTE 3/29/14. **BROOKE FAILOR**—DRIVER AM-PM IFT AND MIDDAY RIDER 4/22/14. **DEMOND DADE**—QHS HEAD GIRL'S BASKETBALL COACH 4/18/14.

Leave of Absence—**JOLENE BRISCOE**—QHS SECRETARY—FMLA 4/3/14. **JOHN FRISBIE**—TRANSPORTATION—FMLA THROUGH 4/14/14. **KIM SORENSON**—TRANSPORTATION—FMLA 2/7/14 THROUGH 6/2/14. **LARISSA BRADY**—APPLYING FOR IMRF DISABILITY EFFECTIVE 4/2/14. **SHANNON CHENEY**—BALDWIN N 4TH GRADE—FMLA 3/19/14. **KAILEE NIEMANN FLESCH**—QHS MATH APPROX 8/4/14 THROUGH 9/15/14. **MICHELLE KERKHOFF**—BERRIAN 1ST GRADE APPROX. 9/22/14 THROUGH 11/3/14. **SERA JARVIS**—BALDWIN EXTENDED MEDICAL LEAVE THROUGH END OF 2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR. **CATELYN FRESE**—SPEC ED—FMLA AS NEEDED APPROX. 5/7/14 THROUGH 5/9/14.

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GRADUATION HONORS

Denette Kuhlman and Jan Leimbach, members of the district's Curriculum Committee and part of the Graduation Honors Task Force, reported to the Board on the graduation honors review process. A Citizens Advisory Committee was formed to review current graduation honors practices with representation of parents from all QPS schools, QPS administration and the community at-large. Current policy and practices of the district were reviewed as well as policies and practices of other Illinois schools. Research on the criteria universities are looking at in their admission process was also completed. The three options the advisory committee considered were:

- ◇ Continue to name a valedictorian/salutatorian based solely on GPA.
- ◇ Continue to name a valedictorian/salutatorian based on GPA and number of credits.
- ◇ Adopt a Summa Cum Laude/Magna Cum Laude system.

The consensus of the Task Force and recommendation to the Board is to adopt a Summa Cum Laude/Magna Cum Laude system. They also recommend the following:

- ◇ Increase the minimum GPA required for each award so that it truly reflects the students who are doing outstanding work.
- ◇ Graduation speeches submitted and selected from Summa Cum Laude graduates.
- ◇ The new practice would start with the 2014-15 freshman class.

With the Summa Cum Laude/Magna Cum Laude system more high achieving students will be honored. The Board will review the recommendation for approval at the next meeting.

