

UPDATE

Quincy Public
Schools
Newsletter

Issue No. 1

August 20, 2015

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



At the August 19th meeting, the Board was updated on the district's \$89 million construction program. Chad White, Russell Construction, said the \$16 million Quincy High School project is on schedule and on budget. Temporary walls partitioning off construction areas have been erected and grading has begun for a northeast parking lot. The existing water main at QHS did not have to be relocated which will credit those costs back to the district. Deep foundations will be starting soon.

Kim Mulch from Klingner and Associates presented a virtual tour of the new K-5 school to be built on the Monroe site. The model will likely be used for the four other elementary schools to be built. Construction work at the Monroe site will be advertised in late September and bids are likely to be opened in October. Construction would then begin in spring 2016 with the school ready to open by fall 2017. Business Manager Joel Murphy said the district is planning to open one new school each year thereafter.

Board Approves \$95 Million Tentative 2015-2016 Budget

Business Manager Joel Murphy presented information about the tentative budget for 2015-2016. He said the primary purpose of the budget is to translate the district's educational priorities into program and financial terms. Unlike a business, a school district's budget is not to show how to make money or save money. The budget shows how to spend money to benefit the children. The budget serves as a legal document granting authority to spend and levy taxes. It is a managerial document which outlines clear expectations for maintaining and monitoring the District's financial health. It is a "road map" for education with desired outcomes and priorities. It is also a community document, communicating the District's educational plan and priorities to the community. He emphasized that the budget is an estimate—an estimate of the expenditures needed to carry out the desired programs and an estimate of the revenues which will be available to pay for the expenditures.

The tentative budget adopted by the Board will be on public display for 30 days. The hearing for final adoption will be on Wednesday, September 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at Dewey School. Mr. Murphy explained the budget is 16% higher than last year's because of costs associated with the district's \$89 million construction program. Other budget details include general state aid increasing by \$532,000 while special education funding is dropping by \$452,000. Federal food aid is going up \$521,000 while \$1 million less will be received in federal grants and local donations will drop by \$400,000.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION OPEN ENROLLMENT

Please remember that this year, for the first time, ALL eligible employees are **REQUIRED** to re-enroll in benefits in order to continue them. Open enrollment started 8/15 and runs through 9/15 and all benefits become effective 10/1/15. If you DO NOT enroll online, you will only have your district provided \$10,000 life insurance. Your previous benefit choices **WILL NOT ROLL OVER without your re-enrollment.**

We have a new online enrollment system that we hope you will find easy and informative. Every eligible employee should have received a Benefits Packet. (New employees received this packet during the benefits meeting.) This benefits packet is also available online. The Benefits Packet will give you detailed instructions of how to access the online enrollment tool and will give you all the information you will need to make your benefit selections. If you need help, we will have several options available:

Enrollment specialists will be available at your building to help you enroll or to answer questions. The schedule for these enrollment specialists is in the Benefits Packet.

During the last 2 weeks of open enrollment, there will be a toll free benefits helpline for employees to call. They will be able to enroll you over the phone or answer questions. The Benefits Coordinator, will also be available to assist.

NEW THIS YEAR:

A Guaranteed Issue is being provided by our new life insurance vendor – One America. This means employees and their spouses can elect **and are guaranteed to receive** up to \$200,000 for employees and \$50,000 for spouses **without answering any medical questions.**

VSP is offering a new Premium Plan that has higher coverage amounts. The standard plan will also continue to be offered.

Several new Aflac products are available – many that are Guaranteed Issue.

Employees will benefit from this new online enrollment system by:
Simplicity –

No more paperwork = no “lost” paperwork causing enrollment problems.

We previously had 3 enrollment periods throughout the year for different benefits. Realigning all benefits to an October 1 start will eliminate the need to remember when it’s time to enroll for benefits. One enrollment period each year and you’re done.

Accuracy –

The benefits you elect will be electronically submitted to the providers and to our payroll system. No more hand entering of information and less human error.

Education –

The online enrollment system will remind everyone of the free benefits available to employees – EAP, \$10,000 basic life insurance, Diabetes program

It will also be a reminder of the current coverage you have and the dependents you have enrolled on your plans.

We hope you find the online enrollment tool easy and beneficial.

CLASSIFIED AD—

- **YAMAHA PIANO—**P-22 Oak. 1 owner. \$1,000 OBO. Shelly Salisbury 257-0682

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QPS

Mission Statement

Educate students and teachers to achieve personal excellence.

Vision Statement

The Quincy Public School District is committed to creating a culture of excellence in education for college and career readiness by

- **Engaging students to achieve personal excellence;**
- **Building professional knowledge and excellent teaching practices through collaboration;**
- **Utilizing curriculum aligned to the state standards;**
- **Establishing high expectations and improving student growth; and**
- **Developing active partnerships with parents and the community.**

In other action, the Board approved:

- QAVTC and WCR Joint Agreement Budgets.
- Blessing-Riemann College of Nursing Agreement.
- Lease with Ford Motors for three drivers education vehicles.

WELCOME

ALL NEW QPS STAFF

Quincy Public Schools is pleased to welcome 118 new staff members for 2015-16

54 certified staff
30 paraeducators
1 nurse
4 Food Service
21 Crossing Guards
1 Security Guard
7 Support Staff