

UPDATE

Quincy Public
Schools
Newsletter

Issue No. 1

August 21, 2014

BUS DRIVER HONORED



At the August 20th Board of Education meeting, Bus Driver Andre' Landsom was honored for her quick and heroic response in an emergency situation. Transportation Director Shane Barnes and Security Chief Billy Meyer both recognized Andre' for her actions. On May 20, 2014, she was taking some junior high students home from extended day. She was traveling between 5th and 6th on Locust Street when the bus was shot, shattering the window directly behind the driver's seat. Mr. Barnes said Andre' did not know it was a BB-gun at the time, yet she remained calm. She controlled the bus and pulled around the corner two blocks away shielding her students from danger. Andre' calmly called the Bus Barn. Quincy Police Department was dispatched and arrived quickly. With Andre' in the lead, students remained calm even on the extremely hot bus. With the help of a brave eyewitness on the bus, the 19-year-old shooter was arrested. Andre' called each students' parents when she returned to the Bus Barn. Chief Meyer thanked Andre' and said everything was done correctly that day. Board President Stephanie Erwin said the Board is proud of Andre' and the way she represents the district.



Board Approves \$70.3 Million Tentative 2014-2015 Budget

At the August Board meeting, Business Manager Joel Murphy presented information about the tentative budget for 2014-2015. 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 24th at 7:00 p.m. at Dewey School. Mr. Murphy explained the budget is 4.84% lower than last year's. Revenues are down 1.91% at \$68.7 million. The savings in this year's budget are coming primarily from the switch in the district's health insurance. The \$1.56 million deficit in this year's budget is mainly due to Life/Health Safety funds received last fiscal year but will be expended this year.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS IN QUINCY

Quincy School District staff were privileged to have two internationally recognized speakers to start off the new school year.

Safe Schools & Healthy Students.—area educators and law enforcement filled the auditorium at QHS on Friday, August 15 to hear Lt. Col. Dave Grossman speak about how to keep our students safe. Lt. Col. Grossman is an internationally recognized scholar, author, soldier, and speaker who is one of the world's foremost experts in the field of human aggression and the roots of violence and violent crimes. He spoke about applying the lessons learned from past school mass murders. Locked doors, one point of entry, bullet-proof laminate film on windows and armed security guards deter would-be assailants. He emphasized that we should never lose our sense of outrage at these events and never think of this as business as usual. Perpetrators of these horrendous acts have become desensitized to the violence through movies, television, and especially video games. In the games, points are awarded for killing and this can indoctrinate some players who have a susceptibility toward violence. He said educators can transform our society and turn off the garbage. Teachers can lead the way. He talked about teaching kids what to do in these situations — Hide, Run, Fight—similar to the Stop, Drop and Roll that is taught to children for fire safety. He stressed the importance of teaching students to report suspicious activities, threatening comments, and alarming posts on social media to thwart a possible violent event before it happens. Schools should be the safest place on the planet for our children.

Leading at the Speed of Trust —On opening day, August 18, staff members were welcomed back with a presentation by Stephen M. R. Covey, renowned speaker and author of the bestselling book, *The Speed of Trust*. Business leaders were also invited to participate in this shared learning experience. Mr. Covey said trust is the one thing that changes everything. Trust is not just soft and fuzzy and not merely a social virtue. It is an economic driver. Trust is the number one competency of leadership needed today and is a learnable competency. Disagreements are strengths when you have trust. When there is low trust, you are careful, guarded, and suspicious. There is no understanding and it exhausts energy. You cannot partner and engage without trust. Leaders need to trust employees and employees in turn trust leaders — reciprocity of trust. It turns a *group* into a *team*. Trust engages people whereas distrust disengages. Trust affects energy levels and joy. The first job of a leader is to inspire trust and the second job is to extend trust. Some of the behaviors of high trust leaders are: 1) talk straight, 2) demonstrate respect, 3) create transparency, 4) right wrongs, 5) show loyalty, 6) deliver results, 7) get better, 8) practice accountability, 9) listen first and 10) keep commitments. Mr. Covey said trust is an idea whose time has come.

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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.**

CLASSIFIED ADS—

- **2006 Bennington 2575** Tritoon with trailer and 150 Yamaha outboard motor. \$23,000—excellent condition. **2009 29 ft Baja SST Outlaw with twin 454's.** Beautiful boat with low hours in excellent condition \$39,500. 430-6538 or 242-8247
- **2005 GMC Sierra Pickup.** 1500 4WD, Extended Cab. Vortec 5.3L V8 with only 67,000 hwy miles. Excellent condition one owner. \$14,500. 222-1781

In other action, the Board approved:

- QAVTC, WCR and Special Education Joint Agreement Budgets.
- Fuel bid for 2014-15 from Petroleum Traders.
- Purchase of real estate for QAVTC Construction project.

**WELCOME
ALL NEW QPS STAFF**