

UPDATE

Quincy Public
Schools
Newsletter

Issue No. 1

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Board Approves \$76 Million Tentative 2013-14 Budget

At the August 21st Board meeting, Business Manager Joel Murphy presented information about the tentative budget for 2013-14. He said the three elements of a budget include a description of the educational programs to be provided, an *estimate* of expenditures needed to carry out the desired programs, and an *estimate* of the revenues which will be available to pay for the expenditures. He emphasized that the budget is an estimate. 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.

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 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Monroe School. 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.



DRUG TESTING DISCUSSION

At the August 21st meeting, the Board discussed possible random drug testing primarily for those students involved in extracurricular activities. Discussion began at last week's Policy Committee meeting and continued at the full Board level. Sheldon Bailey, Policy Committee Chair, read the District's mission statement and questioned whether drug use currently affects providing a *safe and secure environment* for our students. Superintendent Cobb surveyed staff at QJHS and QHS and 84% were in favor of drug testing. Superintendent Cobb said he wanted to make it clear that he was *not* saying there is a drug problem within the schools. Some teachers surveyed felt that staff members should be tested for drugs as well. That sentiment was also expressed by several Board members. Attorney Gorman said that while drug testing of extracurricular participants could be implemented, larger scale testing of all students and staff would be more difficult to do. Extracurricular activities are a privilege, not a right. However, students have a right to an education. The cost of drug testing and the type of drugs and substances tested was also discussed. The Policy Committee will look at other school districts who do drug testing, review the IASB Press Policy, and present more information to the Board in September.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS RIDING BUSES AND VISITING SCHOOLS

On the first day of school, Wednesday, August 21, several Board members and central office administrators rode school buses with the children. Each one commented on the professionalism of the drivers and the excitement of the students on their first day. Board members complimented Transportation Director Shane Barnes and transportation staff on the great start to the school year.



Board members were provided a schedule to visit schools. Each Board member has been assigned to one school per month. Superintendent Cobb said it is up to individual Board members as to how many visits are made to the school during the month, involvement in the school's activities, etc. He said this will help Board members to become familiar with buildings and staff throughout the district. The monthly Board meeting is also being held at a different building each month which will include a tour of each site.

Superintendent Cobb said the visits to buildings will help Board members become familiar with current facilities as they work to develop a plan for the future which may include new buildings and grade configurations. Business Manager Joel Murphy will present a report on the district's facilities at the September Board meeting.



The Junior Achievement Financial Literacy Program is taught in classrooms by trained volunteers. JA brings community leaders into the schools to provide lessons that bridge the gap of what students are learning in school and how it can be applied in the real work. The series takes place over the course of 5-6 weeks for approximately one hour per week. United Way of Adams County is spearheading this initiative.

Terry Myers, United Way spokesman for this program, said it is projected that 3,000 students will be served. United Way has committed to raise the necessary financial resources, estimated to be about \$200,000 for a three-year commitment to this program. In 2013-14, the program will be implemented at grades K-3, 4 and 7. Grades 5, 8-9 and 10-12 will be added in subsequent year(s).



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ADAMS COUNTY REGIONAL SAFE SCHOOL

Cheryl Dreasler, Director of the Adams County Regional Safe School (ACRSS) Program, reported on the enrollment, attendance, credits earned, discipline referrals and number of graduates from the 2012-13 school year. Mrs. Dreasler reported that attendance last year was 66.14%, up from 2011-12 attendance with Ombudsman of 53.98%. There were eight seniors who graduated from the program last year. Enrollment for 2013-14 is currently 67 students with 17 seniors who will be on track to graduate. There are eight students enrolled from area county schools. Mrs. Dreasler said the ACRSS Program promises to: Keep students safe, provide a nurturing learning environment, encourage regular attendance, enhance academic skills, and hold students accountable for academics, attendance and behavior.



CLASSIFIED ADS—

- **2004 Toyota Camry LE.** 4 cylinder, 21/31 mpg, 149,000 mi. White/beige. \$7,300. 779-5901 or 242-8144.
- **2009 Honda Metropolis 50 cc Scooter.** Low miles \$1,500 or OBO. 224-2701.
- **1967 Chevy Caprice—**2 door, 454 engine, runs. Antique, rebuilder. Some new replacement parts included. \$3,000 or OBO. 224-2701.

In other action, the Board approved:

- QAVTC, WCR and Special Education Joint Agreement Budgets.
- Fuel bid for 2013-14 from Petroleum Traders.

**WELCOME
ALL NEW QPS STAFF**

IT'S A NEW JOURNEY

*Be our Best
Do our Best
Expect the Best*