



# UPDATE

Quincy Public Schools  
January 17, 2008

## QHS FOCUSED STUDY HALL REPORT

The Board of Education Curriculum Committee heard a report on the Focused Study Hall (FSH) at Quincy Senior High. FSH is a system of support for students not reaching their academic potential and is a mandatory assignment for students who have been identified as needing additional support. The FSH is staffed by three teachers per hour—an English teacher, a math teacher, and one content area teacher. Student data was used to identify students for FSH. The two most important identifiers were low GPA (some students had a GPA under 1.0) and credit deficiencies. Test scores were also reviewed but it was found that some students actually performed relatively well on standardized tests (i.e., Stanford). There were 124 students identified for FSH for 2007-2008. The student/teacher ratio is kept low to meet the varied needs of the students and to allow room for other students in need of a short-term intervention.



After the first quarter, the average GPA of the 124 students increased from .916 to 1.56. Sophomore student Isaiah Johnson spoke to the committee on how he has benefited from FSH. He came to QHS with only three credits as a ninth grader and a .833 GPA. His first semester GPA was 2.33. He earned three credits during first semester and passed all his courses. Superintendent Leahy commented that there is an ever-increasing need for this type of support; the resources for meeting the need is a challenge for the district.

## WTAD REPORTER JOHN HOLM RECOGNIZED

The Board recognized John Holm, WTAD reporter, who has covered the Quincy Board of Education meetings for over 20 years. John is cutting back on his schedule and will be covering other assignments. John is known for getting the monthly meetings started on time by announcing, “It’s seven o’clock.”



**JEANNIE MARTIN**, District School Nurse Supervisor, is one of fifteen school nurses who has completed the School Nurse Leadership Training sponsored by the Healthy Schools Campaign, National Louis University, and University of Illinois at Chicago. The School Nurse Leadership Program trains school nurses to provide leadership in their schools to improve student health. Jeannie completed the program entitled: *Student Body Challenge: Making Better Health and Fitness a School Policy*.

**In other action, the Board approved:**

- Food and non-food bids from Kohl's Wholesale at a cost of \$425,558.56. Kohl's was the lone bidder.
- Line of credit from Mercantile Bank for up to \$7 million at a fixed rate of 3.79%.
- Seniority list for classified and certified staff.
- Five New Courses at QHS for 2008-09: *AP European History, AP United States History, Forensic Science I and II* and special education courses *Personal/Social Development* and *Career Exploration*.
- Bid for an electronic sign for QHS from Century Signs.

**Accounting Students Compete in Illinois Council on Economic Education**



Students from Marti Dunker's accounting class competed in the fall session of "The Stock Market Game," sponsored by the Illinois Council on Economic Education. Over 15,000 Illinois students in grade 4-12 participated in this educational program. In the Land of Lincoln High School Region competition, 308 high school teams competed. Mrs. Dunker's student team of **Ellis Nutt, Sam Wiemelt, Albert Brink** and **Brandon Walker** captured **1st Place**. The students will receive a "Stock Market Game" logo and a certificate of their first-place achievement. The class will also receive a \$50 award for class use. Of the 1,958 teams competing throughout Illinois, Quincy's team finished 19th.



**JACQUE MECKLENBURG**, 4th grade teacher at Baldwin North, was named a **KHQA Excellent Educator**.

**PERSONNEL ITEMS**

**APPOINTMENTS-JAN HOMBERGER**-5 Instructional Support at Irving. January 14. **MICHELLE KERKHOFF**-.5 Instructional Support at Berrian. Effective January 10. **ALISA SANDERS**-full time Instructional Support at Dewey January 22. **CHERYL DREASLER**-diving coach January 16. **DARLA OHNEMUS**-paraeducator Baldwin So. December 18. **LISA HARBIN**-night custodian QJHS December 24. **BRYAN LAMBORN**-Maintenance delivery February 4. **DYLAN WELKER**-paraeducator 14th St. Altn January 14. **TERESA HOBBS**-cook Ellington January 22.

**RESIGNATIONS—CHAD MORSS**-.5 Math teacher at QHS December 21. **TRAVIS SHANKS**-bus driver December 21. **STEVE VEIHL**-custodian ECFC/Madison December 31. **JILL HAVERMALE**-bus driver and cafeteria supervisor January 25.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE-IRENE MOTLEY**-SEIU bus rider at ECFC through the end of the 2007-08 school year.



Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things but just look what they do when they stick together.

Verna M. Kelly

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