

# Happy Holidays

From 1444 Maine

December 13, 2007



## ***Holiday Wish and Thank You***

At last night's Board meeting, Superintendent Tom Leahy expressed a thank you to all staff for all they do and best wishes for a wonderful holiday. He stated that Quincy Public Schools is alive and well due to the work of our dedicated staff!

## ***QPS Teacher Mentor Project***

Trish Viniard, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, reported to the Board on the QPS Teacher Mentor Project. Nationally, nearly half of all new teachers leave the classroom within their first five years of service. She said this initiative helps attract, support and retain new teachers. Professional support services for teachers that include mentoring, professional development and assessment of teaching practice have proven to be one of the most effective tools in retaining new teachers and improving their skills. In the summer of 2006, Illinois State Board of Education provided grant applications for a Beginning Teacher Induction Pilot Program. Quincy Public Schools involved teachers and administrators, as well as Quincy University and Regional Office of Education representatives, to develop and submit a grant proposal. Quincy's proposal was one of only ten in the state that was awarded, and the grant project was funded again this year.

Michelle Eberlin, President of Quincy Federation of Teachers, outlined how the Union assisted in the development of the Teacher Mentor Project. She said keeping the end in mind, the project will support teachers and have a positive effect on thousands of students. It's a Win-Win! Marilyn Smith, the district's Mentor Teacher Leader for the project, explained some of the activities of the program including initial new teacher orientation; formal, ongoing mentoring from a trained mentor; observations of the new teacher by the mentor and of the mentor by the new teacher; weekly dialogue between new teachers and mentors, monthly training/networking sessions for new teachers and mentors; collaborative development of an individual induction plan, and ongoing, two-way new teacher/mentor written reflection through a Dialogue Journal. Mentor Teacher Peg Klauser said she applauds the district for this program to support new teachers. She said it is an investment that will pay off and she is proud to be a part of encouraging and reaching out to new teachers and serving as a role model and confidant. Heidi Easterling, second year teacher at Ellington, said she feels fortunate to be a teacher in this district that has made support for new teachers a priority. The Teacher Mentor Team, which oversees the project, will continue to work to ensure that this initiative has a positive impact on students and staff.

## ***Board Member Curtis Lovelace to Fulfill Term***

Board Member Curtis Lovelace, who had announced his intent to resign from the Board, announced this morning that he will fulfill his term. He stated that those who serve sacrifice time with their families and do so for the education of children. He said that there are those on the Board not interested in the education of children. Therefore, he intends to fulfill his term as an elected member of the School Board and support the mandate of the voters which is education.

## PERSONNEL ITEMS

### TEACHER APPOINTMENTS

**RICHARD STEWART**—3 periods social studies at QHS. November 13, 2007.

**JOSE QUINTERO**—2 periods Spanish at QHS. November 7, 2007.

**ERIN JANSEN**-Baldwin North. January 7, 2008.

**RON KARNOPP**-TAOEP Grant QHS. 2 hours per day. December 6, 2007.

### PARAEDUCATOR APPOINTMENTS

**AARON DOUGLAS**—paraeducator at ECFC. November 26, 2007.

**CRAIG DUCHEMIN**-paraeducator at QHS. November 26, 2007.

**DEMETRIUS DIXON**—ISS supervisor at QHS. November 26, 2007.

### RESIGNATIONS

**MICHELLE PETERSON** as boys swim/diving coach December 6, 2007.

**CATHE GROVE**-SEIU bus rider for Early Childhood November 12, 2007

**BRIAN LEWTON**-paraeducator at Baldwin South January 7, 2008.

**JILL RAKERS**-paraeducator at Madison December 21, 2007.

**HEATHER KITE**-paraeducator at Baldwin West December 22, 2007.

**CINDY FRYE**-paraeducator at Madison December 31, 2007.

**CHAD DEAN**-paraeducator at QJHS December 31, 2007.

**SHANTELL REYNOLDS**-job coach at QHS. December 31, 2007.

**KATHY WISKIRCHEN**-paraeducator at Washington January 1, 2008.



### *2007 Tax Levy*

The Board of Education adopted the tax levy for 2007. Business Manager Rich Royalty presented some comparisons on the Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) and tax rate. The 2006 actual EAV was \$642,375,008. It is estimated to be \$687,000,000 for 2007, an increase of \$44,694,992. The 2006 tax rate total was 4.15010 which generated \$26,659,208. The 2007 tax rate is estimated to be \$3.99749 per \$100 assessed valuation, a decrease of 0.15261. The 2007 rate will generate an estimated \$27,463,796, an increase of \$804,588—3.02%. This is up slightly from the estimated tax levy presented last month which included no dollars in the Tort fund. At a special meeting on November 30, the Board approved the revised Safety and Risk Management Plan which supports a tax levy in the Tort fund of .55 cents. The 2007 levy approved by the Board includes .35 cents in the Tort fund for 2007. The Board also approved asking voters to approve a .25 increase in the district's Education Fund. The Education Fund has been at \$1.84 for almost twenty years and is among the lowest in the state. The referendum for a .25 increase in the Education Fund will be included on the February 5, 2008 ballot.



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