

UPDATE

Quincy Public
Schools
Newsletter

Issue No. 5

January 20, 2011

Snow Days Start Early for Some QPS Staff

When snow or ice is threatening road safety, some Quincy Public Schools staff must begin their day very early. If there is any precipitation, security personnel contact Maintenance Director Dennis Peters around 1:00 a.m. Dennis then makes a decision to call out maintenance and custodial crews about 2:30 a.m. to begin applying salt or begin plowing as determined by weather and road conditions. Superintendent Lemon begins communicating with area superintendents around 3:30 a.m. to check on their plans to close schools and reviews weather sites on the Internet. Around 4:00 a.m., Transportation Director Shane Barnes and several of his staff test drive some of the routes that are known to be particularly treacherous. They also network with city and county road crews to get more information on road conditions. A recommendation to cancel school is then made to Superintendent Lemon. He will make the final decision to cancel school by 5:15 a.m. Staff will be notified by the district's School Reach Alert and Information System of the cancellation by 5:45 a.m. Students and parents will be notified by 6:00 a.m. At this time, Shane Barnes notifies the media of the cancellation. Once school has been called off, custodians work at their buildings cleaning off the walks and parking lots while maintenance employees use trucks to clear the larger parking lots. All QPS property is monitored throughout the day.



Extreme cold temperatures can also necessitate canceling school. Superintendent Lemon said he considers closing school if the wind chill is 20 to 25 below zero and the temperature is not predicted to increase significantly by the time students will be waiting at bus stops.

Superintendent Lemon said trying to predict the weather is one of his hardest jobs. It is difficult to make the decision whether to cancel school so early when conditions may drastically change within the two hours prior to students leaving for school.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In January, the Board of Education approved the District Improvement Plan (DIP). The DIP is required by the state and includes strategies and activities to improve student achievement. The two goals included in the 2010 Plan are:

- *While 74.5% of QPS students met/exceeded standards in reading in 2010, at least 85% will meet or exceed by 2012, and every subgroup will meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) performance target.*
- *While 77.9% of QPS students met/exceeded standards in reading in 2010, at least 88% will meet or exceed by 2012, and every subgroup will meet the AYP performance target.*

Assistant Superintendent Trish Viniard explained that in order to meet AYP, all sub-groups must meet or exceed state standards by attaining the Adequate Yearly Progress target. QPS sub-groups (45 or more students) include White, Black, Students with Disabilities, and Economically Disadvantaged.

PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS—**TONY GRAWE**-Asst 7th and 8th track coach. **KRIS KLINGELE**-Asst track coach. **ERIC HOKE**-7th and 8th grade head softball coach. **KATHERINE FEE**-Para Baldwin West. **DAVID WULF**-Driver PM bus route. **KENNETH NG**-district computer technician. **KATHERINE HOLLENSTEINER**-Para Dewey. **AMELIA STEINKAMP**-Para QHS.

RESIGNATIONS—**SHERRILL TURNER**-QHS English teacher. **MARCIA ZANGER-EAST**-Para Dewey. **TONY SPILKER**-bus driver. **RANDY COLLINS**-bus driver.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE—**ED ROST**-bus driver. Effective December 25, 2010 for 8-10 weeks.

In other action, the Board approved:

- Food and non-food bids awarded to Kohl Wholesale and Fox River Foods.
- 2010-2011 Seniority Lists
- Temporary construction easement to the City of Quincy and conveyed property to the city at 33rd Street for preliminary work to align 33rd Street and the QHS parking lot entrance tentatively scheduled for 2012.
- Bids for toilet repairs at Adams School from Geise Plumbing at a cost of \$24,318 and for roof repairs at QHS from Geissler Roofing at a cost of \$191,460. Both project bids came in under estimates.



Quincy Public Schools

1416 Maine Street
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DANA TRANTOR
*QAVTC Health
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named
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EXCELLENT EDUCATOR