

Community Workshop #5

May 19, 2026

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Quincy High School



QUINCY
Together

Welcome! Community Workshop #5

May 19, 2026

Please introduce yourself to others at
your table.

Put on a nametag.

Sign in at your table.



Why We're Here: Our Charge

Create a report for the Board regarding a long-range vision for the district's operation:

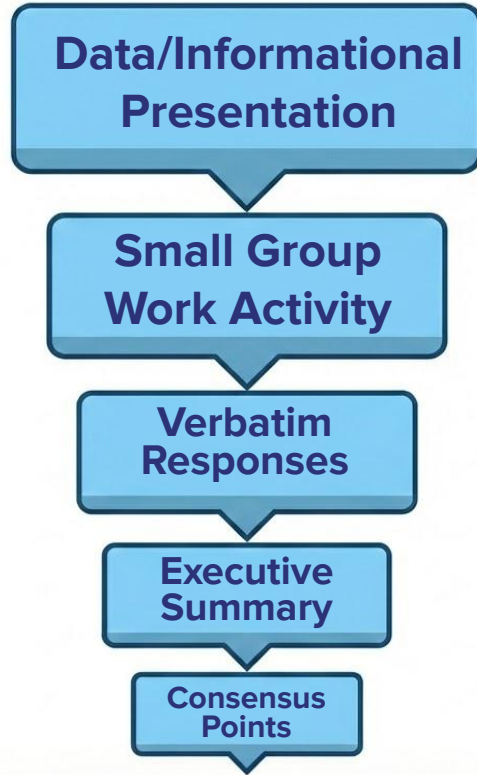
- Broad base of community perceptions and priorities
- The role, objectives and needs of the district in the community
- Long-term goals for the district regarding staffing, facilities, resources and educational performance criteria
- Steps that need to be taken to accomplish those goals



Quincy Together Process Calendar

DATE	ACTIVITY
January 27	Community Workshop 1: Understanding Our Schools Today
February 24	Community Workshop 2: What It Takes to Run a School
March 24	Community Workshop 3: Our Financial Future
April 21	Community Workshop 4: Exploring Options
April 30	Building Tours/ Open House
May 19	Community Workshop 5: Finalizing Our Community Recommendations
June 2026	BOE Presentation

Session Documentation



**Collective Decisions Used in
Formation of Recommendations**

**Review the
documentation from
previous workshops
at
quincytogether.org.**

I Have A Question/Comment!

- Complete a form
- Email oakleyan@qps.org
- Ask during small group work time



I HAVE A QUESTION!

I would like to be contacted by a Quincy Public Schools representative who can respond to this question/comment:

Your question or comment may be directly related to the community engagement project or any other matter regarding the school district.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Why Tonight Matters

- Tonight is a rehearsal of the final Board presentation
- We want to know:
 - Did we accurately reflect the community's voice?
 - Is anything missing?
 - What needs to be clearer?
- Your feedback tonight will help finalize the report and recommendations



Tonight's Presentation



Ongoing Information

 quincytogether.org

 facebook.com/qps172

 instagram.com/qps172

Quincy Together

DRAFT Final Report and
Community Recommendations
To Be Presented to the Board of Education

June 2026



QUINCY
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

QUINCY
Together

Thank You

- The Board of Education for creating this process
- The Quincy Together Facilitating Team
- QPS staff and leaders
- Community members who participated and shared feedback



Overview

- Quincy Together was a community-led engagement process
- Focused on the future of Quincy Public Schools
- Explored district needs, challenges, and priorities
- Built around transparency and collaboration



Our Charge

- Gather community input
- Understand district challenges
- Explore future opportunities
- Develop long-range priorities
- Build shared understanding
- Make recommendations to the Board of Education



Process Activities

- Facilitating Team meetings
- Five community workshops
- Building tours and open houses
- Small group feedback activities
- Community survey

Community Participation

- Averaging 100 participants at each workshop
- Parents, staff, residents, and community members
- Four community workshops
- Building tours and open house
- Facilitating Team meetings beginning Sept. 2025

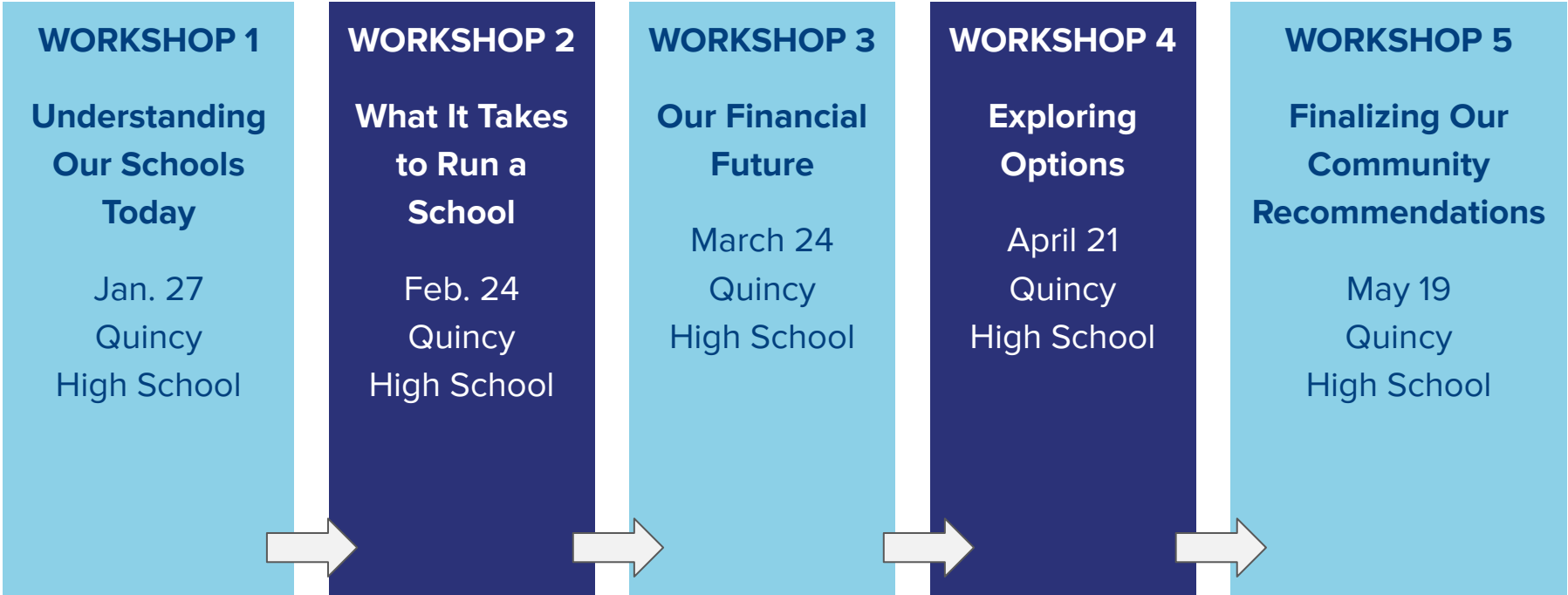


Communications And Outreach

Throughout the process, consistent communication and outreach including:

- Direct mail
- Text messages
- Social media
- Website content
- Emails
- Flyers
- Outreach at community events and activities

Community Workshops



How Quincy Together Worked

- Informational presentations
- Small-group work activities
- Consensus discussions
- Transparent documentation
- Building workshop topics on what attendees wanted to hear



What We Learned

The process evolved to focus on three major needs:

Educational (Teachers and students)

Operations & Maintenance (Facilities)

Financial Stability

Workshop #1 — What We Learned

Understanding Our Schools Today

Jan. 27, 2026 | Quincy High School | 130+ attended | 22 small groups

- QPS serves 6,100+ students and employs more than 1,000 staff members
- Staffing shortages and declining applicant pools impact classrooms and student supports
- QPS had 28 teaching openings and 28 support staff openings
- Several intervention and support programs rely heavily on temporary grant funding
- Aging facilities and infrastructure impact learning environments, safety, and efficiency
- Vocational and career education space limitations restrict program growth opportunities



Workshop #1 — What We Heard

- Recruiting and retaining quality staff must remain a top priority
- Competitive salaries and benefits are essential for attracting employees
- Students need stronger academic, behavioral, and mental health supports
- Career and technical education opportunities should continue expanding
- Facilities and infrastructure require long-term investment
- Transparency and communication are important moving forward



Workshop #2 — What We Learned

Understanding Our Schools Today

Feb. 24, 2026 | Quincy High School | 90+ attended | 16 small groups

- Public schools provide far more than classroom instruction each day
- QPS manages transportation, food service, technology, safety, maintenance, and student support systems simultaneously
- Student behavioral, mental health, and academic support needs continue to increase
- Staffing shortages create challenges across transportation, special education, classrooms, and support services
- Aging facilities and operational demands continue to increase maintenance and infrastructure needs
- Many district services directly affect student safety, consistency, access, and readiness to learn



Workshop #2 — What We Heard

- Recruiting and retaining qualified staff is critical
- Teacher compensation and support systems need improvement
- Student behavioral and mental health supports remain important
- Mentoring and onboarding systems should continue strengthening
- Community partnerships and communication matter
- The public needs clear information about district operations and staffing challenges



Workshop #3 — What We Learned

Understanding Our Schools Today

March 24, 2026 | Quincy High School | 100+ attended | 23 small groups

- Public schools rely on local, state, and federal funding sources
- Many state and federal funds are restricted to specific purposes and cannot be used for general operations
- Approximately 68% of district expenditures are salaries and benefits
- Staffing and educational services are the district's largest investment
- Funding decisions directly affect educational programming, staffing, class sizes, and student supports
- Deferred maintenance & operational costs continue to increase
- Long-term stability requires sustainable funding solutions and long-range planning



Workshop #3 — What We Heard

- Educational programming should remain a top priority
- Supporting and retaining staff is essential to student success
- Safe, updated facilities require continued investment
- Long-term financial stability is important for the district and community
- The public values transparency around district finances and planning
- Future solutions should balance educational needs and financial responsibility



Workshop #4 — What We Learned

Understanding Our Schools Today

April 21, 2026 | Quincy High School | 60+ attended | 11 small groups

- Different funding approaches address different district needs
- Educational funding and facility funding serve separate purposes
- County School Facilities Sales Tax revenue can only be used for approved facility-related projects
- Budget reductions would significantly impact staffing, programs, and student services
- Long-term planning requires balancing educational priorities, facilities, and financial stability
- Future funding decisions will directly affect students, staff, and district operations



Options for Moving Forward

- OPTION A: Increase the Education Fund rate
- OPTION B: Use County School Facilities Sales Tax
- OPTION C: Use a combination of increasing the Education Fund rate
AND funding from the County School Facilities Sales Tax
- OPTION D: Make cuts



Option A: Ed Fund Rate Only

Increase Needed: \$0.68 Ed Fund Increase

Revenue Generated: \$8.5M

Passes with: Simple Majority (50% + 1)

Investment: \$44 per month on \$200,000 home

Solves for: Education and Financial Stability

Still Need: Operations & Maintenance

- Education**
- O&M**
- Financial Stability**



Option B: County Facilities Sales Tax Only

Increase Needed: 1% Sales Tax

Revenue Generated: \$8.5M

Passes with: Simple Majority (50% + 1)

Investment: \$0.01 per Dollar Spent on Retail Items

Solves for: **Operations & Maintenance** (*Facilities*)

Still Need: **Education and Financial Stability**

- Education**
- O&M**
- Financial Stability**

Option C: County Facilities Sales Tax + Ed Fund Transfer

Increase Needed: 1% Sales Tax &
\$0.68 Ed Fund Transfer

Revenue Generated: \$8.5M

Passes with: Simple Majority (50% + 1); Requires two votes

Investment: No Increase in Property Taxes + 1% Sales Tax

Solves for: Education, O&M (facilities)
and Financial Stability

Still Need: N/A

- ✘ Education
- ✘ O&M
- ✘ Financial Stability



Option D: Make Cuts

Reduce Annual Budget by \$5 million

- Cuts people and services
- Does not fill any of the 60 open positions

Increase Needed: \$0

Revenue Generated: \$0

Passes with: N/A

Investment: No Increase in Property Taxes

Solves for: Nothing

Still Need: **Education, Operations &
Maintenance and Financial Stability**

-  **Education**
-  **O&M**
-  **Financial Stability**



Workshop #4 — Options for Moving Forward

- Option A — Strong education support / limited facility impact
- Option B — Strong facility support / limited educational impact
- Option C — Strong support across all priority areas
- Option D — Budget reductions and service impacts

Option C emerged as the most preferred option.



Workshop #4 — What We Heard

- Transparency and trust are essential in future decision-making
- The community wants clear and simple communication about district needs
- Long-term planning should support students, staff, and facilities
- Future investments should be financially responsible and sustainable
- Ongoing community engagement and public education remain important
- Future proposals should clearly explain how investments support students and schools



Building Tours & Open House

- Aging facilities impact learning environments
- Space limitations affect programming opportunities
- Maintenance needs continue to grow
- Career and technical education space remains limited



Workshop #5 — What We Learned

- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder



Workshop #5 — What We Heard

- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder



What We Learned Overall

- Strong schools strengthen communities
- Staffing shortages impact students directly
- Student needs continue to grow
- Facilities require long-term investment
- Communication and transparency matter
- Long-range planning is necessary to ensure financial stability



Community Priorities

- Competitive salaries and staff retention
- Expanded student supports
- Safe and updated facilities
- Career and workforce opportunities
- Long-term financial stability
- Ongoing community engagement



Statements of Recommendation



Statements of Recommendation

Present the community with a proposal for additional funding that reflects the Quincy Together priorities, protects students and staff, maintains facilities, and supports long-term financial stability.



Statements of Recommendation

Develop and communicate a clear, concise financial plan that outlines how any new funding would be used, how progress would be measured, and how the community can hold the district accountable.



Statements of Recommendation

Continue to rebuild trust and transparency by communicating honestly, listening to and valuing the input of stakeholders, following through on commitments, and clearly explaining how and why decisions are made.



Statements of Recommendation

Clearly and concisely communicate the urgency of the financial situation and the consequences of inaction if additional funding is not secured.



Statements of Recommendation

Make the recruitment and retention of qualified educators and staff one of the district's highest priorities by providing competitive salaries and benefits and by developing strong staff support systems.



Statements of Recommendation

As QPS plans for the future, it must remain focused on the full range of community priorities identified through the Quincy Together process. This includes, but is not limited to, strengthening student discipline practices, enhancing support systems for teachers, and staff and reviewing classroom spaces and learning environments.



Statements of Recommendation

Use community partnerships to expand resources, strengthen career and workforce pathways, and reinforce the role of Quincy Public Schools as a central partner in building a strong, thriving future for our community.



Next Steps

- Finalize recommendations
- Review survey data
- Continue community communication
- Explore implementation priorities
- Continue long-range planning efforts

A stronger Quincy starts with strong schools.



Stay Involved

To stay involved with Quincy Together and help spread the word about the plan moving forward sign-up here



Small Group Work

Recorder Responsibilities

- Enter the your group's information in the form on your Chromebook.

Facilitator Responsibilities

- Facilitate discussion
- Keep group focused and on task



Small Group Work Activities

ACTIVITY #1 - How did we do?

In tonight's presentation, you were presented with the recommendations developed from community suggestions at previous Quincy Together community engagement sessions and the community survey. We realize there are very few things in life that can be labeled "perfect," and that is also true for any final solution to move our schools forward.

- Yes! This is a great plan that will move QPS forward.
- Almost got it, but we have a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations.



Small Group Work Activities

ACTIVITY #2 - Trust and Transparency

Throughout the Quincy Together process, we have gained unique insight into the operation of our schools. As we move forward, how can our school district continue to increase trust and transparency, and enhance open, honest communication?



Thank you!

