

Small Group Work Activity

Verbatim Responses

CEW #4 • April , 2026



ACTIVITIES

Task #1

Around the room are boards displaying the four options that were reviewed during tonight's presentation. After learning about these options, we'd like you to help prioritize them. Take the red and green dots that are in your packet and "vote" with them by placing green dots on the option(s) you would like the Board to consider and red dots on the options you feel should be removed from consideration. You can distribute your dots as you see fit, spreading them among a number of options or placing all of them on one option.

<p>35 Green 17 Red Second Most</p> <p>OPTION A ED FUND INCREASE</p> <p>Tax Rate \$8.5M</p> <p>MONTHLY FEE \$44/month</p>	<p>29 green 15 Red</p> <p>OPTION B COUNTY FACILITIES SALES TAX</p> <p>Property Tax Rate \$8.5M</p> <p>1¢ per dollar</p>
<p>Green 132 Red 2 Most</p> <p>OPTION C COUNTY FACILITIES SALES TAX + ED FUND TRANSFER</p> <p>Property Tax Rate \$8.5M</p> <p>1¢ per dollar</p>	<p>Red 157 Green 2</p> <p>OPTION D MAKE CUTS</p> <p>Tax Rate \$5M</p> <p>\$0.00</p>

Task #2: Option with the most green dots: Option C - Discuss the following as a group and respond to these questions for the option that was the MOST preferred based on the activity in Task #1.

2A. What should the Board of Education consider to improve this option?

Table	
1	The Board of Education should consider that trust is low within the community. It is hard to ask the community to vote in our favor or ask them for more money when we are already struggling to rebuild trust. We, as a group, believe that students (particularly our Tier I) need support, and relying on the community for not only one, but two YES votes, would leave them without support. They will not receive the professionals, support, and resources necessary for them to succeed.
2	1. Clarifying what voting yes would mean. 2. Communicate the "why". 3. Communicate which other schools have done this. 4. Meetings for families at schools to communicate the need.
3	Come up with a blueprint for how to allocate this money and communicate it to voters
4	1. Timeline, momentum, and education are going to be key in passing both votes. 2. Counteract, get out ahead, of what the 'no' voters will have to say. 3. Need buy in from each group of voters: private school, community members, non-residents. 4. Community members may buy in more if discretionary spending/budgets are looked at and analyzed to see if cuts can be made without 'feeling' it. 5. More transparency about everything in the district.
8	You will need to make this messaging super super super simple going as far as making imaging that can relate to each consumer/tax payer specifically. Talk about the 60% stat that Ryan presented tonight. You will need to reach out to other communities and show the other tax payers the benefit of the anticipated revenue for other area school districts. Try and get buy-in from rural communities. The first lever that needs to be talked about is the Facilities Sales Tax and then show the savings. Then after that, show the Ed Fund Transfer. There must be a strategic way to message this.
10	Clear communication- straightforward and clear presentation to community members (For example, the bond issue in 2014- presentations made to 45 different groups-same presentation, clear and to the point)
11	explore other revenue streams (gambling, marijuana, alcohol, etc), clear simple messaging, messaging, and messaging, consider a public budget audit,
12	We could publicize at open houses, back to school night, school fairs. . People want the schools to be as transparent as possible.
14	That it solves for All: education, operations, and maintenance and financial stability. Be careful with using the word "tax" when sharing information on social media. When presenting the information to the public, make sure to sell, that ultimately this is for what's

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	best for the students.
17	Educate the community that the majority of this sales tax is provided by visitors of Adams County. Emphasize what is NOT being taxed...groceries, vehicles, farm equipment, medication, etc. Property taxes are NOT increased.
19	Targeting and specific communication that this option is being mostly funded by external, non residents. therefore the burdern isn't soley on Adams Country residents.

2B. What, if any, roadblocks should the Board consider if they decide to ask the community to vote on a referendum to implement this option?

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1	A roadblock that should be considered is our current stance in the community. We do not believe that two votes are possible at this time; even though it IS possible, we don't believe our community is in a place that they would support this. They should also consider the fact that the district's lack of transparency and cooperation in prior situations, which in some ways led to the community's distrust, will ultimately lead to a lack of student support and success.
2	1. The community will need to be sold on this more. 2. The community will need to be educated on the vote. 3. Misinformation spreading.
3	What happens if one vote passes but the other doesn't? How are we going to convince the community to vote for this?
4	1. People need to get out and vote positively 2 times. 2. If the second vote fails, default to option to B which does not solve the most important problem we have talked about which is teacher pay and retention and education, or cash flow and financial stability. 3. Language to explain the 2 votes and keep community members engaged. 4. The community feels like they just voted for the elementary buildings so why should they have to vote again.
8	One roadblock will be a Quincy vs. the other four community school districts in our county. Messaging from the school district to the ballot will be a roadblock.
10	Hard sell to the community and may be confusing to the community- typically when the community has seen property tax increase, it has been an automatic no. Can we sell the county facilities sales tax alone?
11	complex process on how it works, people might struggle to understand there is no property tax increase, misinformation on social media, and it requires two votes
12	Emphasize that we are not raising the property tax. How can we get the entire county to go with the same messaging.

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14	<p>Make sure the roll-out of information is clear and precise. Cut through the weeds. Make sure the first thing explained is "No Property Tax". Sell the 60% of Adams County visitors idea!</p> <p>Two ballot measures</p> <p>If there is stagger voting will people go to the polls two different times?</p>
17	<p>Community has an aversion to any tax increase. Properly educating the community on what this tax clearly means and spreading this information to all of our community, not just QPS staff and families. This option needs two votes.</p>
19	<p>To get by in - provide where there data is coming from that the other counties or districts are in favor. How is the data gathered, what are the metrics that are being reviewed?</p>

Task #3: Option with the second most green dots: Option A - Discuss the following as a group and respond to these questions for the option that was the MOST preferred based on the activity in Task #1.

3A. What should the Board of Education consider to improve this option?

Table	
1	<p>The Board, should again, consider that community trust and confidence is low. This will make it difficult to gain community support to increase the Ed Funding. Asking for the tax rate to increase, especially considering that confidence and transparency has been low, is going to be very difficult.</p>
2	<p>1. Explain why improving the Ed Fund is overall beneficial. 2. Communicate the "why" of increasing Ed Fund. 3. Update infographics to be more clear. Crossed out facilities icon may be misleading.</p>
3	<p>Combine options A and C and have a smaller property tax increase along with the sales tax increase</p>
4	<p>1. Show of good faith with looking at our current budget and possible cuts to ask the community to help fund the 'rest'. 2. More transparency about everything in the district.</p>
8	<p>Talk about specifics of starting salaries to be in line with other schools in our area. Highlight the opportunity for financial stability.</p>
10	<p>Very clear plan of what the increase will do. How will it impact the teachers, students, music, sports, and the community? Potentially bring in a teacher to help convey the message.</p>
11	<p>Very particular messaging, show the need for this to the community,</p>

Table	
12	What is the lowest amount we could ask for? What is the highest? Is there a possibility to put a little now, and then put more down the road? Could do "A day in the life of _____" How will this money be spent in the eyes of my 5th grader? My kindergartner? My Vo-tech student? My A-building kid?
14	It's a simple majority vote It provides the financial stability Is there a different allocation to other buckets instead of .68 to the ed fund?
17	Educate the community so they understand this option will help support education and financial stability, but will not help Operations and Maintenance.
19	Consider allocating a portion to operation and maintenance.

3B. What, if any, roadblocks should the Board consider if they decide to ask the community to vote on a referendum to implement this option?

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1	Again, the road block that the Board should consider is the fact that we would be asking for a tax rate increase, without having high confidence or support from the community at this time. It would take a considerable amount of messaging, communicating, and work within the community to make this feasible. As of now, we do not believe this is possible.
2	1. Property tax increase is never preferred.
3	Nobody wants their property taxes to increase and we still need to figure out how to sell this to the community
4	1. It will be very difficult to pass a property tax increase. 2. The community feels like they just voted for the elementary buildings so why should they have to vote again.
8	We will be in the same boat 10 years from now.
10	Tough sell- lack of understanding from the community of what the property tax will actually do.
11	Nobody wants a property tax increase, no money for facilities, no money for maintenance, very tough to pass in this community
12	If it doesn't pass....then what? How can we show the school board can be trusted? How will they continue to be transparent?

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14	\$44/month property tax increase Tax rate increase
17	Negative public opinion regarding taxes. Housing is already expensive in Quincy.
19	Voter participation - portion of our community does not own a home perhaps this is not an issue. Voters who have children who go to non-public schools.