

Small Group Work Activity

Verbatim Responses

CEW #5 • May 19, 2026



ACTIVITIES

Task #1

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 QPSschools forward.

Almost got it, but we have a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations.

Table	How Did We Do?
3	Almost got it, but we have a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations.
4	Almost got it, but we have a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations.
5	Almost got it, but we have a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations.
6	Almost got it, but we have a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations.
11	Yes! This is a great plan that will move QPS forward.
12	Almost got it, but we have a couple of ideas to strengthen the recommendations.

Table	Other Ideas #1
3	Is there a way to prioritize or simplify the recommendations? 7 statements seems like a lot. If it is being presented to the board, it's also being presented to the public. These paragraph recommendations seem a little bit too long.
4	There needs to be a recommendation addressing the culture of Quincy Public Schools.
5	It would be helpful context to provide a slide that shows the total deficit, the increased income and the financial allocations for the new funds. Will option C cover both the deficit and the proposed initiatives? With option A, \$8.5M generated for Ed Fund. With option B, \$8.5M generated for Operations and maintenance. Option C combines the two, estimates \$8.5M for both Ed Fund and Maintenance. Will that be enough? If not, what decisions will made?
6	The actual ask to the board was lost in all the information. You need clearer wording about the transfer of funds. How does all this close the circle of staff recruitment and retention which has been stated as a clear priority.

Table	Other Ideas #1
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12	Are there potential cuts that can be made to other areas to combine options C and potential cuts, so we are increasing income and finding fat that can potentially be trimmed? If cuts have been made or there is already no fat to be trimmed, that needs to be communicated to the public who will expect the district to make said cuts before asking them for more in tax dollars.

Table	Other Ideas #2
3	Is there a way to use bullet points for the recommendations or to limit the words? We all care about this, but we started to zone out after about the 3rd recommendation. Is there a way to make the information more visual (like the bucket idea)?
4	There needs to be a recommendation concerning a lack of quality leadership in Quincy Public Schools.
5	The tax transfer, reallocation, whatever you call it, needs a better, more simple description. We understand it while we are listening, but it's hard to communicate it outwards. More clarity on how the transfer will work? Will it be a 100% reallocation or a portion? We would like to see some clear assurances and proposed distributions.
6	Do not comment about coaches talking about other facilities - you will lose academics and other groups. A lot of talk about facilities but the whole point is to move funds out of facilities and into the ed fund and financial stability. Education is the meat and potatoes, but you do need to mention all parts of the district.
11	
12	Will this additional funding keep us competitive at least for the next decade as we work on making salaries competitive and helping our facilities, or will there be another budget shortfall before this is able to pull us out of the deficit? If it will take that long to get salaries up to a competitive rate, what are we doing to keep our teachers and staff here in the meantime? Does that account for inflation increases, etc?

Table	Other Ideas #3
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4	
5	Do we know if salaries are the only reason for the staffing shortage? Is there data to show that and/or have we conducted research to show that increased salaries will help? A slide to demonstrate that data would be helpful.
6	Build partnerships with community businesses and support systems through the community.

Table	Other Ideas #3
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12	Will this additional funding also address federal and state grant cuts that are currently being made or is that a potential budget shortfall/cutting of those programs as a separate issue?

Task #2

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?

Table	Trust, Transparency and Communication
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -If the school is not saying anything, but information comes out through the media in some way, people assume that the school district is trying to hide things. -Proactive communication is a good thing, right now it feels like communication from the district comes out when they are trying to put out a fire.
4	We feel that we do not have strong teacher, parent, or community buy-in at this time.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -QPS Board should be more visible and out in the community. Be available for questions and try to answer questions in real time. -Communicate where the funding will go, and then follow through with plan. Transparency in financial planning and also financial reporting. -Take recommendations/suggestions annually for budget refinements. -Be forthcoming with information before asked. -Provide detailed information that is easy to understand that outlines how QPS got into a position to have such a significant annual shortfall. -Utilize many communication channels for reporting, not just digital. Print, mail, phone, open meetings.
6	<p>Quit padding comments - not everything is rainbows and sunshine. You need to be completely and utterly honest with attitudes and numbers.</p> <p>Make it clear to the community what this Quincy Together is helping to do. These meetings are not solving discipline issues but the board still needs to know the community feels discipline is a major issue.</p>
11	Can board members and board office staff come and present "state of the schools" at school PLCs where Teachers are present every semester, rather than an email that Teachers can choose not to click and read; Teachers can invite board members to their schools to share in school events or classroom activities to see what is going on in schools that they represent; We trust the board (all Teachers at our table) with the information they share/present however, when the same information is reported on by the local News Outlets information can be misconstrued for perception purposes.
12	Communicate a plan, current detailed budget shortfalls, and the how or why if there is no current fat to be trimmed or funds that can be reallocated?