



# Quincy School District 144 - 101

*Improving the Life Choices for All Students*

SUPERINTENDENT  
John L. Boyd

BOARD MEMBERS  
Myrna Blakely  
Tricia Lubach  
Joann Garces  
Mike Scharbach  
Alex Ybarra

119 J Street SW

Quincy, WA 98848

Phone 509/787-4571

FAX 509/787-4336

## QUINCY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE Q&A

**On Tuesday, February 9, 2016 residents of the Quincy School District will be asked to vote on a bond to build and remodel schools to expand learning opportunities for students. Below are some answers**

**Question:** How long will the proposed renovations and new construction last for a growing student population?

**Answer:** Overall, the renovations and new construction will likely accommodate student growth for 10 to 15 years. This may vary at different grade levels depending on growth forecasts. For example, projections indicate a higher near-term growth rate at K-5 than at grades 9-12. To accommodate this, the building program is adding more classrooms to the K-5 inventory than to the higher grade levels. However, the new high school will have "core" facilities (i.e. cafeteria/commons, library, administration, gyms, etc.) large enough for long-term growth for 20 years or more. Therefore, if future growth is needed beyond 20 years, classrooms can be added and the "core" will be sufficient to support this long-term growth. In addition, the middle school is sized for up to 850 students. As such it should be sufficient for a 10-year growth period; and its "core" can support even more students with added classrooms if needed long-term.

However, please recognize that growth forecasts are imperfect and the state will only fund growth projected over the next six years. We want to solve the growth problem for as long as possible (and as long as reasonably affordable), but we don't want to build in excess capacity that sits vacant for many years while the taxpayers pay the bill for empty classrooms. With this building program we think we've struck the right balance. We believe we've covered growth needs for the 10 to 15 year time frame, and kept the door open for growth and efficient expansion beyond that time frame.

**Question:** What is the construction timeline? Or: When would students be moving into the newly renovated or newly built schools?

**Answer:** The following schedules are preliminary and tentative (for rough approximation only):

- George Elementary Classrooms/Gym:  
Design Work: March 2016 to September 2016  
Bidding: October 2016  
Construction: November 2016 to September 2017  
Move-in: September 2017
- Gyms at Mountain View and Pioneer:  
Design Work: March 2016 to September 2016  
Bidding: October 2016  
Construction: November 2016 to September 2017

Move-in: September 2017

- Modernization/Renovation of Existing Junior High into a K-5 elementary school:  
Design Work: March 2016 to May 2017  
Bidding: June/July 2017 (cannot bid until \$10M in state funding is allocated)  
Construction: July 2017 to December 2018  
Move-in: Students remain on-site throughout during phased construction.
- Conversion of the existing High School to a Middle School:  
Design Work: January 2018 to March 2018 and January 2019 to March 2019  
Bidding: In various packages targeted for summers of 2018 and 2019  
Construction: Summers of 2018 and 2019  
Move-in: Fall of 2019
- New High School:  
Design Work: March 2016 to November 2017  
Bidding: December/January 2017/18  
Construction: February 2018 to September 2019  
Move-in: Fall of 2019

**Question:** Why did you choose to build a new high school on the north side of town?

**Answer:** Quincy School District owns two sites large enough for a 40-acre to 45-acre high school campus fully outfitted with building footprint, parking, and sports fields sufficient for all tiers of high school sports for both boys and girls. The 59-acre north site (at the NE corner of Road Q NW and north of Road 11 NW) is within the designated Growth Management Act boundary where extensions of sewer and water services are permitted for this site—and readily available at modest cost. The 155.2-acre south site (west of SR218 and about 1 mile south of the canal) is outside the Growth Management Act boundary where extensions of sewer and water may not be permitted. In addition, even if utility extensions were allowed, the School District would have to pay to extend sewer and water to this site at a cost in the range of \$2M—as well as an approximate \$500,000 cost of highway modifications for site entry and egress (acceleration lanes, deceleration lanes, left-turn lanes, etc.).

**Question:** Why don't you buy other land in a better location?

**Answer:** Purchasing land in or adjacent to the city of Quincy that is both within GMA boundaries and large enough to house a high school is quite challenging, as well as expensive. Land to the east and west of Quincy is not currently available for purchase, and services are not currently extended beyond the irrigation canal to the south of town. This leaves only the north end of Quincy for a potential high school site. The city is growing in that direction currently, with housing development pushing that direction and the city planning to expand services. It makes sense to build schools in areas of anticipated future growth. Based on those factors, the land was purchased by the Quincy School District in 2007.

**Question:** Aren't taxpayers already paying off a school bond?

**Answer:** Yes, the District's existing bonds extend through 2023. The District refinanced the outstanding bonds in 2014, saving taxpayers over \$250,000 in interest. The proposed bonds will be structured with limited principal repayment until the existing bonds mature, to produce a level overall bond tax rate. The total 2017 bond tax is estimated to be \$2.12/\$1,000 of assessed value. This represents \$1.89/\$1,000 over the 2015 bond tax rate.

**Question:** What will the new high school look like?

**Answer:** The appearance of the new high school will evolve with a lot of stakeholder oversight—with both school district and citizen input. There will be many open community meetings to gather this input and test-drive solutions. It will be a process that tests many options and tries to find the collective “comfort zone” of a broad audience that includes the nearby neighbors, students, parents, the high school staff, the school board and the community at large. We want the building to have a strong visual presence and send the message that education is important to the Quincy community. We want to find the right balance between providing a school our community can be proud of without being extravagant.

**Question:** Why do we need to build new ball fields and a stadium when we already have those facilities at the current high school?

**Answer:** The present high school is on a site that is too small for the full complement of play fields needed for high school boys’ and girls’ sports at all levels. Operationally it is better to have all the sports facilities together on one site. This saves on busing expense, it reduces student personal car travel (a safety consideration), and it gives coaches and students more on-field time. In addition, the smaller inventory of existing high school fields will fit future middle school needs very well and expand opportunities for them.

As for the stadium, it will still make a very convenient and very good freshman and junior varsity venue. The existing stadium needs many improvements that were estimated to cost in the range of \$2M to \$3M (including better concessions, toilets, tickets, storage, drainage, east-side seating, perimeter fencing, scoreboard, expanded team lockers, parking, etc.). We believe it is better to spend these dollars on a new stadium right next to the new high school. It will provide much easier daily access for student users—and we can piggyback on the parking and locker facilities of the new building (and avoid those significant costs at the existing stadium).

**Question:** Does this mean the school district is redoing the neighborhood school boundaries? How will those be decided?

**Answer:** As part of our long-term goal to provide the best educational experience for students and parents, we are moving to the K-5 neighborhood school model. When complete, this project will result in five K-5 schools in the district, including George, Mountain View, Pioneer, Monument and a new elementary located at the current junior high site. A community-based committee spent a year researching best practices in education, and this is the model they recommend. It allows students to remain in their first school for six years without disruptive transitions. Siblings will be able to attend the same schools together, resulting in a family-friendly atmosphere where older students take care of and act as role models for younger students.

This does mean that the elementary school boundaries will be adjusted to fit the neighborhood school model. Generally, students will attend the elementary school that is closest to where they live, although rural students who are bused may have some variation to this. The Quincy School District has a successful track record of working with teachers, parents and the community to determine new school boundaries when Pioneer and Mountain View were reconfigured in 2012(?). We will follow the same inclusive community process to ensure that all input is considered.

**Question:** Will we be able to choose a school other than one in our boundary area for our child?

**Answer:** Parents currently have the ability to request that their child attend a school outside of the designated boundaries for Pioneer and Mountain View depending on a space available basis. Currently our schools are over-enrolled and that limits choice. We anticipate a continuation of that policy allowing school choice requests in the new configuration.

Although still subject to enrollment, after the new elementary school is added to our portfolio of schools, there will be more space available and more opportunities for families to choose a school outside of their boundary area.

**Question:** What is the length of the bond?

**Answer:** The term of the proposed bond will not exceed 20 years.