



2025 School Committee Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Kate Campbell

Office Sought: Quincy School Committee

Website: katecampbellforschoolcommittee.com

Facebook: Cmte Elect Kate Campbell

Twitter:

BlueSky:

Instagram: [kateforquincy](https://www.instagram.com/kateforquincy)

(A) Your Candidacy

1. Why are you running, and what would be your top three priorities if elected to serve?

I'm a parent, an educator, and a community advocate with over three decades of experience in the education system. I'm running for Quincy School Committee because I care deeply about children, and now more than ever we need leadership that will bring all stakeholders together to make a positive difference for our students. As a school committee member, my top three goals will be to invest in our students, create supportive school environments, and to hire and retain exceptional educators.

- **Budget**

The education budget is a statement and reflection of our district's values, and our community needs to have intentional conversations about our priorities. Next year's budget increase does not appear to adequately account for new enrollment and Quincy's changing demographic needs. I would like Quincy Public Schools (QPS) to be proactive and create a strategic plan which addresses the potential impact of the federal government's shift in priority away from public education and the impact of other threats to Quincy's financial stability. I will work to find collaborative and creative solutions that are both financially responsible and student and educator-focused.

- **School Climate (more specifically, bullying, students' social-emotional health, and community building)**

Students require a safe and affirming learning environment to achieve their best. Many children are struggling with mental health and coping with trauma, anxiety, and depression. I support the current elementary QPS initiatives focused on social-emotional learning and mental health and would like to see them expanded. I will advocate for additional programs and resources district-wide for students and families, anti-bullying policies, events that promote community building and a sense of belonging, and the hiring of more adjustment counselors.

- **Teacher Retention**

Educators, specialists, and teaching assistants are the foundation of our school system. They deserve to feel valued, to grow professionally, and to have the support they need to be their best in, and outside, of the classroom. I will advocate for the continued recruitment and retention of high-quality educators and specialists to meet the evolving needs of our diverse student population.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I believe I have the experience and skills to be a unifying voice that represents students, families, and educators. As the parent of recent graduates and children currently enrolled in elementary school, I bring a broad, first-hand K-12 perspective. I was a member of the Quincy Special Education Advisory PAC, and served as a parent representative on three QPS Hiring Committees – for the DEI Director, Superintendent, and the Central Middle School Principal.

During my four years as co-president of the Quincy Citywide Parents' Council (Citywide PTO) I became a trusted mentor and community leader. My primary role was supporting parents throughout the entire district by providing information, listening to and addressing their concerns, and connecting them to the appropriate department, administrator, or staff member when necessary. I advocated for families and formed strong, collaborative relationships with school PTOs, the Superintendent's Leadership Team, and the Quincy Education Association (QEA). I am proud and honored to be endorsed by the QEA union.

As the director of an early learning center I have decades of professional experience creating supportive learning environments, managing a staff of educators, and overseeing a multi-million dollar budget. My career started in Early Intervention helping children with special education needs and at-risk families transition to public education.

I am deeply connected and understand how the Quincy Public Schools and the Quincy School Committee functions, and am committed to ensuring QPS continues to succeed in the future.

(B) Open-Ended Policy Questions

- 1. Massachusetts has wide racial, income-based, and language disparities in educational outcomes. How would you evaluate your school district's work to improve educational equity? What additional steps would you advocate for?**

Addressing disparities in educational outcomes is a significant issue for our district: 20% of QPS students fall into the category of special needs, 47% fall in the low-income category, 62% identify as non-white (source: *DESE District Profile 2024*). Quincy Public Schools currently has 3 community liaisons who primarily focus on language justice, and a liaison who provides wrap-around services for homeless youth and families. Some schools, such as South-West Middle School, have an adjunct counselor to serve Portuguese-speaking families.

Although Quincy has made improvements in supporting the language and cultural needs of some families, a large disparity exists when separating students by race and special needs. There are inequities in the level of support families of children with special needs or learning challenges receive based on the school they attend. I believe QPS needs to conduct an assessment to evaluate educational equity across the district.

- 2. Earlier this year, the Trump administration repealed a Biden-era policy that protected schools from immigration enforcement. What steps would you take to ensure that schools remain a safe and welcoming place for all students, regardless of immigration status?**

I strongly believe it is essential for children to feel safe and welcome in their schools to learn. The first step is for our community to acknowledge the trauma immigrant families are experiencing, whether directly or indirectly. Students and families need mental health interventions and support that are language accessible and culturally informed. I will continue to advocate for programs and the hiring of additional staff to support students' social-emotional wellness. I am also committed to making the QPS DEI director a permanent position on the Superintendent Leadership Team and ensuring the director has the necessary resources to continue their work in building community and fostering a sense of belonging. I advocated for the

creation of the DEI Director position and was the parent representative on the hiring committee in 2022.

Quincy Public Schools has a protocol if ICE agents, or any other law enforcement officers, attempt to enter a school building. I held two Citywide PTO meetings last spring, one with the President of QEA and one with the Assistant Superintendent, to inform parents on this issue. Unfortunately, the school committee has no authority in the immediate moment to protect students or staff. If elected, I will stay informed and ensure the current laws and protocols are communicated clearly to all the schools, especially administrators, security, and other staff who are likely to have first contact with agents; I will keep QPS Leadership accountable for educating families of their rights and providing resources on where/how to get legal support in their preferred language.

3. The Trump administration has been targeting LGBTQ students's civil rights. What steps would you take to ensure that schools remain a safe and welcoming place for all students, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation?

Quincy Public Schools follows Massachusetts state laws protecting the rights of LGBTQ+ students, which currently supersede those of the federal government. I am committed to ensuring these rights stay protected. I strongly support the MA Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ+ Students, a joint initiative between DESE and the MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth, which provides technical assistance and training and helps schools create safe, affirming, and inclusive learning environments. I will make sure principals and administrators have the resources they need, and hold QPS accountable for implementing and adhering to the guidelines. I also support offering Continuing Education to educators and guidance counselors on best practices for supporting LGBTQ+ students, and educational sessions for parents.

4. What role do you see for the school district in the city's response to climate change?

Unfortunately, the majority of our district's 19 school buildings are outdated and in need of environmental upgrades, and some are also located in flood-risk areas. Improvements have been made to some schools with the installation of solar panels, and new, more efficient windows and heating systems, but the school district needs to continually reevaluate its carbon footprint and impact on the environment. There is increasing concern over the

rising temperatures in classrooms due to climate change and lack of cooling systems.

I strongly support the net-zero goal for the new Squantum elementary school currently under construction, and will advocate for all future school buildings to have similar standards. Quincy was recently awarded a grant by the state for efficiency upgrades at Snug Harbor elementary school, and I would like Quincy to pursue additional grant opportunities. I also support the expansion of the QHS pilot composting program. We also have a responsibility to our students to ensure they are being taught a factual, science-based curriculum.

5. How would you model transparency and accountability if elected?

Effective communication is essential in building trust and strengthening relationships between the school committee and families. I am committed to improving transparency, inclusion, and accountability between QPS leadership and the community. I believe there needs to be a district-wide process that spells out how parents will be kept informed and included when decisions are made or policies are changed. I will be accessible and stay informed and engaged on the issues that impact students, families, and educators.

6. How will you engage stakeholders, including students, in budget decisions?

While co-president of the Quincy Parents' Council (Citywide PTO) I fought against the school committee's decision to limit residents' participation in Open Forum by not reading letters that were submitted during the meetings and decreasing the time allowed for in-person testimony. In response to this, I added an Open Forum component to the Citywide PTO monthly meeting agenda so parents and stakeholders could have an opportunity to share their concerns and questions. I also strongly support the continuation of high school students being elected by their peers as representatives to the Quincy School Committee. I believe it is critical for students to build a culture and routine early on that values civic engagement and encourages participation.

7. How will you use your position to advocate at the state level for increasing education funding, especially to provide additional support for students in historically marginalized districts/communities?

State education funding will be crucial if MA loses Federal funding. If elected I will use my leadership and management skills to collaborate with our State Senator and Representatives to advocate for increased education funding.

Quincy Public Schools relies on state funding to support students in designated Title 1 schools. I support legislation such as the Student Opportunity Act and Fair Share, which provide additional funding to vulnerable communities.

8. How will you use your position to combat the Trump administration's war on public education?

It is critical for families, educators, administrators and school committee members to understand how the Trump administration's attacks on public education will impact our community. I would start by having conversations with all stakeholders about the threats to funding and curriculum. Loss of federal funding would result in significant cuts to the budget, especially for extracurricular activities and other enrichment, the arts, libraries, special education, and possibly even school lunches. Educators could be restricted and censored on the content that can be taught in the classroom, or which books can be read. I will work collaboratively towards shared goals to ensure the future success of Quincy Public Schools.

(C) **Yes/No Policy Questions**

1. Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools? **YES**
2. Do you support police-free schools? **YES**
3. Do you support teaching comprehensive, medically accurate, consent-based, LGBTQ-inclusive sex ed in schools? **YES**
4. According to the American Library Association, in 2022 there were at least 45 attempts to restrict access to books in MA schools, disproportionately books that speak to the experiences of LGBTQ students and students of color. Would you oppose such book-banning efforts if they occurred in your city? **YES**

(D) **Additional Comments**

(Use this space to make any final comments you deem important for progressive voters assessing your candidacy.)