

## **Community planning team focuses on Pine Island School**

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A new committee created to design the short- and long-term future of Pine Island, has turned its attention to reviewing the school building and solving its space deficit.

The Pine Island Community Planning Team, which held its first meeting Oct. 10, comprises representatives from the School Board, City Council and Economic Development Authority.

John Champa, a member of the school board who serves on the planning team, brought a facility evaluation timeline to the Nov. 1 school board meeting. It's a five-step agenda: overview, research, community feedback, analysis and recommendations, and direction.

Overview, taken care of last April, consisted of a school board "facility retreat" to discuss the lack of education space.

Research (study and analysis of options by the planning team and school district and input, via a survey and a town hall meeting, from the community) began last month and will continue through February.

In March, the school board will host two or three meetings at which members of the public can offer their points of view. In April, board members will decide, at another facility retreat, what action to take.

And in May, they'll take that action.

The timeline's focus is on the school's needs, Champa said, and on "plans for something new." The board approved the timeline, 6-0.