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	PeggySue	Werthessen	28 South	I believe that the only viable location for any school project is at the current site. Any project which attempts to move the school so far from the center of town (and therefore moving the center of gravity of the system to the south side of town vs center) is deeply misguided. I also believe that the size of the school should be aligned to the population size and reasonable vs extravagant amenities.
	John	Goetz	42 Indian Hill Road	I am a senior citizen and my children are out of the school system. I voted for the new school project. Several comments: 1. Was it a "process" issue or were there just not enough people who supported the project? Sometimes when people say that their voices have not been heard they really mean is that you didn't do what they wanted you to do. 2. I did not receive good communication about the advantages and disadvantages of each site until close to the end of the process. The lack of local newspaper coverage of town events leaves a communication gap. I don't like social media and given what I have heard about the contentiousness on local social media, I hope that it isn't the only way to obtain meaningful information going forward. 3. Until close to the end, I did not feel that the pro-Wheelock site groups made a strong enough case for the new project. Language from the school committee was vague and jargonistic. I felt like I was listening to conversations among persons on a Phd dissertation committee. Words like "synergy" etc. are not concrete or persuasive and can actually be off-putting. What were the real critical problems that the new site was going to solve not just what would be especially nice to have. 4. Despite the loss at the polls, thank you to all of the various town officials for their many hours of hard work and effort. I'm sure it must have been very frustrating.
	John	Thompson	Sturbridge	Please listen to voters and provide a transparent process
	Jackie	Corrigan	11 Homestead Dr	NOT at Wheelock location. I would have voted yes if it were kept at Dale St. I am Not opposed to a different location, just not Wheelock. 4 out of 5 schools off of South St is a traffic nightmare in an already terrible situation. Adding in traffic lights and the possibility of a rotary is bad. Also concerned about having yet another eye sore decrepit building to rot into the ground in this town. Tax increases is not a concern for me, but i do realize it is for some and am sensitive/understanding to that fact. I also would not want to combine all grades into one school, i like them separate. Thinking ahead, memorial and wheelock are nearing needing updates so I like the idea of adding on wings to those two schools and updating everything. #1 problem in this town is not thinking ahead/planning for future.
	Ashley	Stein	304 South	I was just reflecting on Gus and Jessica's inquiries about how to get the public more engaged. After the failed vote in November, I created a Facebook group called "Medfield Mamas - Dale Discussion Group." In 2 days, it grew to 97 members as moms added their interested friends. The first few days had a lot of passionate, energized discussion about what we could all do to help move the process along and get to the bottom of the 'No' votes, but as the group grew, there were participants who were more "in the know" who encouraged us to pump the brakes and not step on the toes of those tasked with these things under official town business, which made sense. Efforts to do surveys and all that would appear biased if not from a trusted third party. Since then, I've been using the group as a way to keep everyone informed by summarizing talking points from School Committee and BoS meetings pertaining to the new school. I think these women (former pro-Wheelock and pro-Dale) are all very motivated to get us a new school and have backgrounds in a variety of things. I think we would all be willing to get involved in various ways to get the word out. We're happy to help in any way that we can! Thanks again for last night!

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Gireesh	Sahukar	98 Pleasant St	<p>As a preamble to the six factors I mentioned during the meeting yesterday, I want to share that we have a child attending 5th grade at Dale this year. We have lived in 3 states and in 3 school systems during this child's elementary education years. Our child has attended schools that were built in 1950 (2001 renovation), and 1975 prior to Dale. Dale by far has been the single worst school our child has attended. Dale just this year has encountered multiple sewage overflows, roof leaks, heating systems failures, and runs on an overloaded/faulty electrical system. This school was built before many of the modern standards and codes came into existence. It is not suitable as an academic environment to provide our students a welcoming and teachable experience.</p> <p>I mentioned six factors that are important and must be considered in the new plan during the meeting. Here they are and the full explanation behind each:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Academics - this goes without saying, but a lot of the debate last year forgot that a new school is first and foremost a school for educating our children. Dale isn't set up to educate in today's world, much less 50 years into the future. The town needs a space that can evolve and reincarnate itself without any more additions in the future.</li> <li>2. Schooling Expansion - with the potential for Pre-K becoming part of public school system in the next few years, the new plan will have to include that. Longer school days might not be a consideration today, but I believe that will become a demand in future decades.</li> <li>3. Schooling Options - year-round schooling is a near-unheard of concept in MA but this is how states with lower educational attainment are improving their public school system. Allowing kids to stay in school longer with additional programs run by affiliated organizations or offering optional extended school terms ins one way to improve options and outcomes.</li> <li>4. Proximity - the new school option should not be worse for some parts of the town to get to. Every corner of town should have equal distance from the new location.</li> <li>5. Campus/Transition - the current three school system is fantastic in many hidden ways that the Medfield community has but other school kids doesn't experience until later in lives. The adjustment process with school changes and new places is a valuable lesson for our students and we should strive to maintain at least one transition in elementary school.</li> <li>6. Minimizing Taxes - Medfield is the most southwestern town that has city water and town sewer in our area. We were attracted to Medfield because of this fact. Unfortunately, this town has one of the highest tax rates on residents of all surrounding towns in the area. We can and should consider options that reduce our taxes so that it stays in line with neighboring towns in the area.</li> <li>7. Non-controllables: Factors such as interest rates and NetZero 2050.</li> </ol> <p>* Interest rates - the rates will do what the market wants it to do, in accordance with its expectation of future earnings. The best Medfield can do is to minimize its borrowing amount rather than try to worry about the interest rate.</p> <p>* Net Zero 2050 - This in particular is a pointless goal for the new school in isolation. A different town-wide plan is necessary to be in place for the new school to consider being part of the plan. This school project is not the place to incorporate a holistic plan of that nature.</p> <p>* Civic Engagement - People will do whatever they want to do. What the committee can control is how it does outreach. I would love a series of events at different locations, different times of day, and different days of the week to engage the town community. While your primary concern is voters, you should make an effort to hear from all tax-paying members of the community. There is a difference. While I'm a tax-paying resident of the community, I have no voice; I have no vote. If you ignore folks like me, you may miss out of some valid opinions and ideas.</p> <p>In addition, Dale St School should be torn down and the site be remedied for asbestos and lead (this site cleanup is lengthy a process and building a school on that site means years of cleanup/tests/delays before construction). Once the site is ready for future use, the town can then decide how best to repurpose that site. If done right, it can expand commercial real estate in Medfield and bring additional recurring tax revenues to the town, alleviating the need for frequent tax increases on residents. This town has 1.5 grocery stores, four gas stations, four banks, and ZERO doctors accepting new patients immediately (or even in a reasonable timeframe). We need more essential services, and the Dale site can be leased (not sold) to a vendor that will operate such essential services. I've been informed by John Thompson (without showing any evidence to back it up) that the Dale site was donated with the stringent condition that it be used for education or recreation. Please put the donation agency letter on the town website so residents can understand if this is true. A practicing attorney resident with experience in this area of the law may also be able to advise the select board on the matter. I believe the agency letter might be cause for legal concerns for the town and the donors if the rumor is true.</p> <p>I want to emphasize again that this is the only way I can offer inputs to and participate in the process. Unfortunately, as an individual with a child in the system as well as a tax-paying resident, I remain pained that I neither have a voice nor a vote to</p>

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	Jen	Burke	77 Wood end lane	<p>It is my sincere hope that we can move forward as a town and work together to find common ground. It is imperative that we find a way to provide the best educational space for our kids asap. To achieve this, we need to listen to one another and have frequent, transparent communication from sbc and the administration. Communication builds trust and creates buy-in.</p> <p>As a parent of a young child, my main concern is ensuring he goes to 4th and 5th grade in a space that is structurally and environmentally safe. I do not want him in a building where ceilings fall down, structures are crumbling, bathrooms overflow, band is outside, and mold and asbestos fill the air. I would like to see an immediate plan to repair these issues as we work towards a new, safer school. It's unacceptable to continue to place our children in that environment.</p> <p>So that is what matters to me- ensuring my son is in a healthy school where he can learn uninterrupted and safely. I don't care where it is in town or how much it costs. We just want to ensure it is structurally and environmentally safe.</p>
	KEVIN	STODDARD	6 Baker Rd	<p>Assuming the new school is built without MSBA matching funds I would like the SBC to consider not only a new school, but also include "school improvements" for all schools. For example, the last proposal was to put the school behind Wheelock. In doing so there were to be improvements to the Wheelock school, such as repaving their driveways and providing actual parking spots in front of the school. If there are other improvements for Wheelock or other schools that can be bonded with a school replacement project then I think that should be considered. I also want the SBC to provide adequate on-site parking if at Dale street. Current parking has many people parking on the neighborhood streets which can be a safety issue especially when PIN and other events are dismissed when dark out and lighting is inadequate. The sidewalks from Dale to the center of town are abysmal. Most of the distance the sidewalks are flush with the road. As part of a replacement at Dale I think the committee should incorporate costs to improving the North street sidewalks so they are elevated and have appropriate curbing.</p>
	Stephen	Cole	18 Hatters Hill Road	<p>In terms of communication, I recommend that a 1/2-page or less easily digestible summary of each meeting be prepared and circulated in different formats for different audience. This could be posted in the local Facebook groups, on the SBC website, printed in the weekly paper (or as an insert to the paper), printed and left at the library, the senior center, town hall, etc. Though meeting materials were available before, they were just the raw video recordings (and other documents) which were too long for anyone to reasonably review.</p> <p>There should also be meetings at different times to accommodate people with different schedules. For example, parents with young children generally aren't available to attend (even by Zoom) a 7 pm meeting. You could have some shorter meetings that start later and/or some meetings on the weekends.</p> <p>It would also be nice to be able to provide input offline if you can't attend a meeting, preferably with a way for the SBC to provide feedback on any offline comments. This would allow for dialogue and also some assurance that the offline comments are being received and considered. Surveys could also be used to provide offline feedback.</p> <p>The SBC should announce when major milestone decisions (site selection, etc.) are coming up. This could be included in the 1/2 page summary and in other communications.</p> <p>I think this may be addressed already, but the school superintendent should not have a voting role on the new SBC. He could have an advisory role.</p>

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	Ann	Humphrey	419 Main Street	<p>In my mind, this is what needs to be different this time around:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transparency throughout. Look to the MHS process as a guide. It's a tough challenge without a decent local newspaper but it's the responsibility of the committee to ensure that the public is informed at every step and is encouraged to engage, as the hospital did throughout its process.</li> <li>2. A committee with diversity. Members should be chosen for their unique experiences and strengths and be expected to disagree. Different perspectives need to be represented so that consideration of impact on green space, town character, health of our downtown, and historic preservation are given proper weight from day one. The last committee was made up of construction professionals who know how to build things (regardless of where) and school professionals (for whom bigger is always better). The final design was a direct result of these two groups working together in an echo chamber without dissent.</li> <li>3. Cost cost cost and size size size. Our little town doesn't need the most expensive two-grade school in the state with a two story foyer.</li> <li>4. Not just healthy debate but debate that is heard and acted upon. When the public is allowed to engage and raises concerns and doubts, the committee must respond with respect and sincerity rather than digging in their heels with the hope of shoving their solution through. Healthy debate, reflection, and accommodation must be embedded throughout the process. It's much harder to do that rather than simply ignore dissent, but it's the only way to succeed in this effort.</li> <li>5. Finally, remember and acknowledge that in the first effort, the PROCESS lost the town millions and months, not the people who were finally heard on Election Day.</li> </ol>
	Courtney	McCarthy	6 Willow Circle	<p>I'm very sad that the last plan did not pass. I will not be in favor of a new school at Dale, the site is too small and not setup for future expansion for either memorial or dale. I also don't want to see my kids in trailers for their fourth and fifth grade years, not only is it disruptive and disjointed, it is expensive.</p> <p>I'd like the Dale proponents to provide details to what would have them consider another alternative site. I don't have much constructive feedback. We can't base our fiscal decisions on what kids do after school - I don't expect the students to support these downtown businesses. That is not a reason to justify a location. Kids from any nearby neighborhood could walk to any new site or ride bikes. This is also not a reason to pick a site. We need a site that supports the educational needs and growth of this town. Dale could be reused as a Rex center for access to all. That would be a benefit for the town and allow many to use it not just 4/5th graders. Just still very frustrated.</p>

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Jennifer (Jen)	Montone	164 Harding Street	<p>Thank you for giving our town and community the opportunity voice thoughts and opinions on how to move forward with a new elementary school for our kids. I attended last week's listening session but unfortunately ran out of time to share my comments there.</p> <p>First, as I'm sure you agree and have heard from many others, please do everything you can to avoid delay and inaction. We can't afford it financially, our kids don't deserve it, and we need to capitalize now on the engagement our town demonstrated last fall.</p> <p>Second, Jessica and Gus asked every person who shared input specifically about communications and engagement. I was so glad to hear this. Last fall shed light on a big issue our town faces – a lack of coordinated and clear communications with all residents and stakeholders. I will be meeting with Kristine Trierweiler after Town Meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a town-wide Communications Committee. I truly believe a body like that could be very helpful with a process like this. Whether or not something like that is ever established, we face two communications challenges with this next process: we must communicate facts, and we must create space for conversation, debate, and opinion sharing. I know that the SBC communications sub-committee worked hard and tirelessly to communicate as best as they could. In this next process, I highly recommend you consider a larger communications sub-committee, and one that involves residents who are not members of the SC or SBC. There are communications professionals in this town, myself included, who can be tapped to share their knowledge and expertise. In addition, most of the people I know in town get their information from other friends and residents. I have a sphere of influence with other families of young children – I personally reached out to friends regularly last fall to make sure they knew about key facts and votes. Friends trusted my texts more than what they may or may not read elsewhere (think: Facebook). While it's true that many of us sought to influence friends to vote in one way or the other, I think we saw that a grassroots effort can successfully educate, engage, and empower all types of residents in town. This time, how about formally involving neighborhood and community leads in the process? You can equip them with clear guidelines around what information they are to share with their circles of influence. They can host in-person gatherings, help distribute paper flyers, knock on doors, etc. And if they are “tapped” by the governing bodies involved in this process – BOS, SC, SBC – then hopefully they will be trusted by everyone, and we can avoid pitting two sides against one another with divisive campaigns.</p> <p>Third, I would like to see any proposed plans focus on how they can support needs of the town above and beyond a school. One of the main factors of my decision to support the proposed Wheelock school was the fact that the town would benefit from community spaces. I recommend highlighting aspects of a plan like that in any future communications – this is a selling point for the town spending so much money.</p> <p>Fourth, I really like Tim Knight's idea during the listening session of establishing and publicizing milestones throughout the process. By letting all residents know about milestone decisions, this could allow people, especially families with young children who will be most deeply affected by many of these decisions, to more strategically come in and out of the process. It is very difficult for busy families with young children to be engaged throughout the entire process – to spend the time necessary to understand the process, be involved along the way, attend every possible meeting and listening session, and then show up to vote. A clear timeline with milestones could be very helpful for increasing and sustaining engagement throughout the process.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and tireless work in this process!!</p>