



# Appendix II

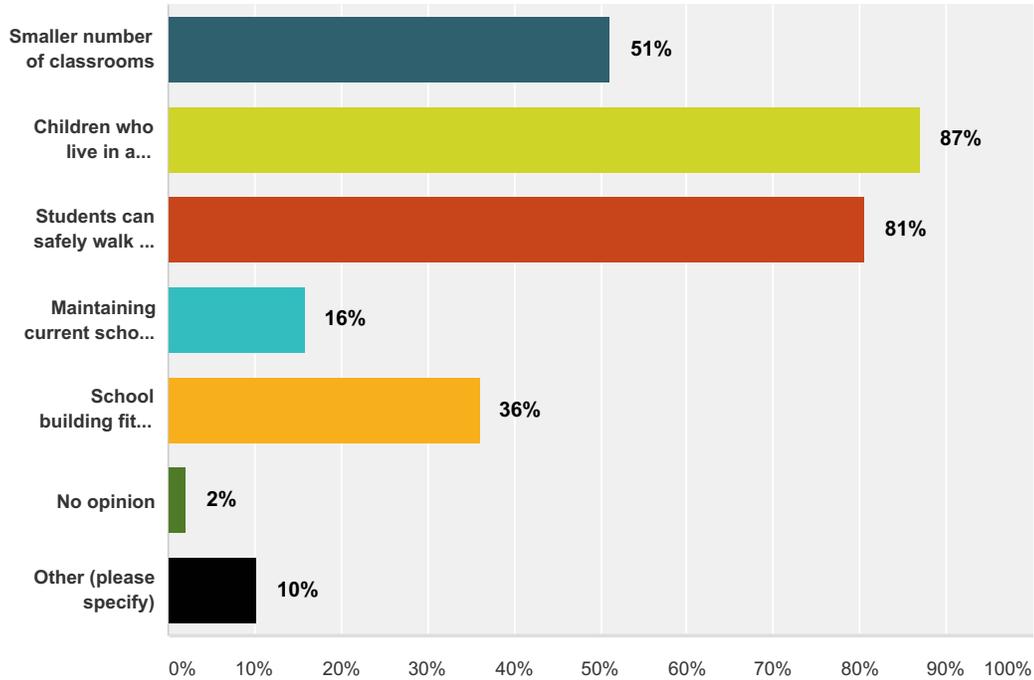


## VIII. APPENDIX II – NARRATIVE RESPONSES

1. Q15 - other
2. Q21 - other
3. Q26 responses - redacted
4. Q27 responses – redacted

### Q15 What do you consider features of a neighborhood school? (Choose all that apply.)

Answered: 1,842 Skipped: 223



Answer Choices	Responses
Smaller number of classrooms	51% 943
Children who live in a defined neighborhood all attend the same school	87% 1,605
Students can safely walk to school.	81% 1,485
Maintaining current school district lines	16% 291
School building fits within the scale of existing buildings and homes around it	36% 664
No opinion	2% 40
Other (please specify)	10% 188
<b>Total Respondents: 1,842</b>	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Children and parents of the school live near each other and have formed a community. Many children can walk to school.	11/1/2016 11:08 PM
2	Proximity increases parents ability to be involved	11/1/2016 10:42 PM
3	Small class size, with larger/ more modern school.	11/1/2016 10:16 PM
4	S	11/1/2016 10:00 PM
5	I believe that Sprague is a resonable size school. A school That is 4-5 sections per grade is too. If for an elementary school.	11/1/2016 7:55 PM

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6	Neighborhood should not be limited to certain streets. Neighborhood should be considered a term for community. Our elementary schools feed to the middle school and then on to the high school. This is our educational neighborhood. We are all one neighborhood. We need to not be so caught up in these little schools which are great but the future requires us to think outside the box and be a bit more progressive and not so bound by the streets that surround us.	11/1/2016 7:24 PM
7	Small Wellesley schools should remain the model for the town. The education of the children, in a smaller setting, should be the primary goal which is consistent with studies done by major universities, over the years.	11/1/2016 6:22 PM
8	a small group learn and grow together	11/1/2016 5:26 PM
9	Wellesley should have developed a sinking fund so as to have funds available for such projects	11/1/2016 3:26 PM
10	Policies which encourage participation by families to use public transportation, and which do not financially penalize families of students who can not safely and reasonably walk to school. Use of school bus by those families at a distance beyond walking distance promotes a sense of community that is a feature of neighborhood schools.	11/1/2016 3:02 PM
11	For me, "students can safely walk to school" means that there is guard in place who ensures that students safely cross busy roads at the beginning and end of the school day. In my neighborhood, traffic at those times is already abominable and more development (especially enlargement) of the school would lead to an even greater --and therefore more dangerous--amount of traffic cutting through the neighborhood streets, which are already narrow --too narrow to permit a footpath on just one side of the streets, and also devoid of traffic lights that would control the traffic "cutting through"....much of the traffic cuts through at 50mph!	11/1/2016 2:04 PM
12	Walking to school safely is optimal; however, well planned school bus routes can make schools accessible to children from all neighborhoods.	11/1/2016 9:15 AM
13	My children went to Upham, my grandchildren go to Schofield. Neither could walk to their "neighborhood "school due to distance and crossing major streets. It did not matter in either case. "Their" school was seen as their own due to the experience they had with principal, teachers etc.	11/1/2016 9:15 AM
14	Not overcrowded	10/31/2016 11:24 PM
15	The fact is that children no longer walk to school - even kids from 3 blocks away are driven ,so walkability sounds nice, but is a red herring.	10/31/2016 9:10 PM
16	I have real concerns about the financial impact of closing Hardy. I feel it is discriminatory against two working parents in the Hardy district.	10/31/2016 6:27 PM
17	Small school where you can get to know the community	10/31/2016 6:04 PM
18	Neighborhood schools are the essence of Wellesley. They foster friendships of adults and children---of families. They build community that is not seen in many towns. After school play-dates are more likely to be in the neighborhood, easier and safer for a child to walk to another neighborhood--or/and quicker for a parent to pick up or deliver a child. Car-pooling becomes simpler to arrange...important since many after-school activities are out of district. A HUGE school is not a good idea. Question 16--How many grades are you talking about per school--K to 5? K-3? Difficult to answer. Will go on the assumption that it is K-5.	10/31/2016 4:32 PM
19	Children, parents and teachers form a neighborhood center.	10/31/2016 4:03 PM
20	I don't think as many people walk as you may think. We did car pick up for 6 years at Sprague. Unless an adult is present, no one K-3 should be walking alone or in a peer group. Then 4-5 marginal. Once it gets cold, rainy, snowy, etc., unless you live next door to the school, you get picked up.	10/31/2016 2:09 PM
21	Preserving the sense of community that has developed around each school.	10/31/2016 1:28 PM
22	Small class size and pupil per school size	10/31/2016 12:56 PM
23	Maintaining small classroom size (number of students per class).	10/31/2016 11:02 AM
24	Encourages community interaction with neighbors even those like us who have no children, the kids come by, trick or treat, sell Girl Scout Cookies after school, the parents walk past, chat, it's a nice way to interact with each other at pick up and drop off.	10/31/2016 10:35 AM
25	Most of us in other districts have children that cannot walk to school due to the large cachement area. It is unacceptable that those in HHU districts feel entitled to maintain their "neighborhood" schools at the expense of those of us who have never had this.	10/31/2016 7:56 AM
26	Small class size-number of students/class less than 22	10/31/2016 7:51 AM

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27	Wellesley was designed with the concept of "neighborhood schools" a very long time ago. It was an era when children walked to school in the morning, walked home for lunch and walked back to school. This is a different era in terms of children walking to school and what school buildings need to provide varied learning programs. Wellesley has faced challenges in making decisions about school closings in the past...Kingsbury, Perrin, Brown, Warren, Sprague. If we look at neighboring towns...they have faced the same challenges....Weston has very efficiently consolidated their schools. Wayland has reconfigure their schools and is still considering the population imbalances. In my mind, the most important consideration is to have schools that are large enough for flexible learning areas, varied programs and enrollment changes. Considering the features of a "neighborhood school" is outdated. We need to consider the features of what the town of Wellesley needs in their schools. Thank you to everyone who is working hard to make this decision.	10/31/2016 5:50 AM
28	People who live in the school neighborhood feel the school is an organizing principal for the community. Dropping off and picking up students is a socializing event. Knowing the actual building where your neighbors' kids go to school feels like the era I grew up in. My husband and I have not had children in the Wellesley schools, yet we know all our neighbors' kids, who we see every day, attend Hardy School and we know the size and location of the school promote involvement in Hardy by parents. Larger schools may be more administratively efficient (I'm not sure I believe that), but they lose the personal connection with families.	10/30/2016 5:58 PM
29	The physical plant must be very good/qualitative...The Town's strong reputation as a world-class community that values education greatly must not be compromised...	10/30/2016 5:57 PM
30	no more than 350 students in a building	10/30/2016 5:02 PM
31	While walkability would be great, that is not the case for many students in the redistricted Hardy district. My children were not able to walk due to lack of sidewalks, poorly lit roads, and dangerous traffic. Although this seems to be rationale for some people to keep 3 schools, it really isn't equitable now.	10/30/2016 4:24 PM
32	More classrooms with reasonable class size (no more than 24 students in each room).	10/30/2016 4:08 PM
33	Ability for staff to "know" each student and be able to interact more closely with each student - less likely any concerns fall through the cracks. Also a smaller community will be less overwhelming for elementary age children and they will feel more comfortable.	10/30/2016 2:23 PM
34	I was at Hunnewell and have a small class size was very important.	10/30/2016 1:36 PM
35	depending on town wide enrollment, plans calling for schools with 4 classrooms/grade are unwise, especially given presently having 7 sites and facing a possible downward trend in overall enrollment over the next 2-6 years. I see no need in this regard for a "super school". Ideally all schools would be geared toward 17-19 classes or so. I'd be OK with 2 classes/grade in at least 1 school to keep the neighborhood access in its current form.	10/29/2016 10:51 PM
36	Small class size	10/29/2016 2:49 PM
37	Neighborhood school should be within 2 miles of the child's home. There should be a safe route for walkers and bike riders with crossing guards where necessary. Later on you in this questionnaire you ask for acceptable distance between child's home and school. OVER a mile is acceptable. We live 1.2 miles from Bates, where my children attended. It was fine then and it is fine now. Responders don't even have that option. I'm sure many hours went into writing this survey. A wider cross section of stake holder, including ALL generations, would have broadened the view that would have been gathered.	10/29/2016 2:31 PM
38	redistricting should be an acceptable option if necessary	10/29/2016 2:21 PM
39	Should / could serve as a hub for neighborhood activity. Might include space / accommodation for after-school daycare. All neighborhoods are different, but seems like multi-use spaces could be useful additions and perhaps provide opportunity for people to interact more. Would be great if we could utilize solar and other alternative energy sources as other schools do - some very visibly.	10/29/2016 1:42 PM
40	according to your charts, most children are driven to school, regardless of distance. Walkability is not a priority to parent Students in the same neighborhood attending the same school , a bit insular. May give parents a sense of control. the problem with smaller number of classrooms impacts storage space and specialty classroom functionality.	10/29/2016 12:20 PM
41	A neighborhood school also fosters a feeling of community. For example, Hardy school has a large playground where the kids can go to play and also meet up with friends and family	10/29/2016 11:04 AM
42	Maintains a community feel. Sprague was so large it felt overwhelming to my friends first and second graders when it opened.	10/29/2016 9:24 AM
43	A lot of the above variables are ideal, but the Elementry (particularly the Hardy) Schools, as well as the Middle School, have problems. I feel we need to be realistic. It is unpractical to build one school after another. So, I think consolidation is necessary for the town expenses to be realistic.	10/28/2016 9:21 PM

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44	It would be great if more kids walked to school but that won't happen regardless of the outcome of this project. Even kids who live blocks from their current school are driven to school.	10/28/2016 9:02 PM
45	Schools should be designed to give all children the best education available.	10/28/2016 7:47 PM
46	The neighborhood school model helps establish a core value of the greater wellesley - community. Community is a strong value of the family and so to maintain the spirit of wellesley it is essential we support the pre-existing school model.	10/28/2016 6:26 PM
47	These factors are not my definition of a neighborhood school - children who live in the same neighborhood attend the same school - when possible. Neighborhood definition should be flexible depending on a number of considerations.	10/28/2016 5:21 PM
48	Parent involvement, particularly at the elementary school level is a key component of the success of Wellesley schools. Neighborhoods want to attend schools in neighborhood schools. The closer the school to the children and families it serves, the better. The value of Wellesley real estate is closely tied to our strong neighborhood school system. Earlier closures of Kingsbury, Warren, Brown, Phillips, Perrin have been to the decided detriment of our town.	10/28/2016 4:21 PM
49	I live in walking distance to Bates and Upham. Could the district lines have some houses listed in 2 possible districts. This could be used to balance numbers. I think families should stay together and kids should be kept in the same school as kids in Wellesley love their schools!	10/28/2016 3:25 PM
50	Schools (and their playgrounds) should be near where the kids live.	10/28/2016 3:17 PM
51	I see no reason for Neighborhood Schools...the number of children/parents walking to and from school is quite small. We saw this with the Bates School redistricting 15 years ago...everyone drives and drops. It is more important to keep annual operating costs down and to have the flexibility to change buildings for specific age/levels of students. Most communities have age groups or grades grouped in specific buildings. This would mean when the population of age demographics change the building sizes/classrooms can be flexible to accommodate ebb & flow of the town wide student population... Age specific facilities Townwide would be beneficial to the students and teachers in Wellesley for sharing information and educational planning and devoting energies and attention in a more focused manner. Neighborhood schools were introduced when kids walked to/from school and went home for lunch. That is no more.	10/28/2016 3:02 PM
52	Neighborhood schools is strictly about building relationships with families in your neighborhoods. Walkability is nice but less critical. Anything else is smoke and mirrors from those scared about change. The fact is that kids are better off in facilities that are designed as an investment into the 6+ hours per day they spend learning and interacting. Anything else is a distraction from the issue. As a sprague parent I can attest to the value of having a great facility for our families. All Wellesley families should get to experience the same benefits, and fear of the needed change to do so is unfortunate.	10/28/2016 10:59 AM
53	Quality of education with focus on investing in teachers and class size versus building size...I see no deterioration of education with two schools versus three. In fact, two larger schools should be more efficient at delivering greater resources	10/28/2016 9:05 AM
54	An attribute of Wellesley is neighborhood schools which positively affects perception of the town and real estate values.	10/28/2016 8:10 AM
55	The number of classrooms is important but the size of each class (number of students in each class) is critical. Elementary classes with more than 20 students is too difficult.	10/27/2016 9:59 PM
56	Safe walking distance (can't have elementary kids crossing rt 9)	10/27/2016 7:46 PM
57	Ensuring that "special" programs in WPS are available in ALL neighborhood schools. Do not bus elementary children across town to another neighborhood school. My youngest son (who is now in high school in a private school by choice) has no friends in our neighborhood because he was bused to Schofield from the Bates district for his elementary school years. He didn't fit in there either because those kids were all friends with their neighbors. That model was so socially damaging that we paid to move him to a special education school in Lincoln where he met other kids from Wellesley with dyslexia and thankfully has three as friends in Wellesley as a result.	10/27/2016 7:30 PM
58	Nostalgia is the defining characteristic of a neighborhood school.	10/27/2016 7:29 PM
59	Teachers who love teaching more than money and who will be respected by students. A superintendent of schools who will make it clear to parents that students who don't respect teachers and who prevent other students from obtaining their education by being disruptive or bullying, will not be tolerated and could face expulsion. There are parents who dictate to the schools staff members what they expect for their children and that their children must have high grades; this happens and should never be acceptable.	10/27/2016 6:56 PM
60	Many families walk to school in our district. It is a small neighborhood school. I know every child and all the families in my child's grade. Our school is a true community school. In spite of the building being one of the very oldest in the district, our test scores are the highest. Our school is definitely in need of improvement, but there is much more to good learning environment than just a building.	10/27/2016 6:13 PM

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61	A neighborhood school is as successful as the efforts to create a community in the district. There is no agreement on the definition of neighborhood schools.	10/27/2016 4:08 PM
62	Question 16 below is confusing and unanswerable. First, it should have stated what the assumed optimal class size is. Second it is not a fair question in that it is impossible for the responder to determine which choices will affect their priorities such as neighborhood school and/or walk-ability to the school.	10/27/2016 3:04 PM
63	Traffic congestion, especially on Weston Road, is a major concern.	10/27/2016 1:54 PM
64	An 18 section school would be would be the biggest neighborhood school that I would vote for. Anything bigger leads to decrease MCAS scores, increase bullying, increase pick up/ drop off traffic and children who need help getting lost and left behind.	10/27/2016 11:02 AM
65	Contributes to the feeling of community in a neighborhood.	10/27/2016 10:55 AM
66	The school is the focal point of the neighborhood and helps unite and tie all the families together.	10/27/2016 10:05 AM
67	Walkability and smaller classes with neighborhood kids is key	10/27/2016 8:00 AM
68	I would like to see larger elementary school districts that go beyond current lines and neighborhoods. The small class sizes are socially stifling and educationally limiting. Especially for working parents, driving kids to school with a smooth pickup.dropoff line is much better than assuming everyone has the time and location to walk and "mingle" everyday.	10/26/2016 11:18 PM
69	School quality, teaching quality, welcoming educational community and class size all reflect the tradition of excellent education in Wellesley schools.	10/26/2016 10:51 PM
70	highest quality education	10/26/2016 10:35 PM
71	Not every school can be compared the same in terms of walkability. For example, in the Upham district we DO NOT have sidewalks on all of our streets. We also DO NOT have a crossing guard. I think it is important to understand the term "neighborhood" school can mean many different things. We should not define it solely on walkability. It is important to keep neighborhood schools in clusters of where people live.	10/26/2016 8:38 PM
72	We moved to our house so our son could walk to school	10/26/2016 5:05 PM
73	A neighborhood school is small. Extensive research shows that 300-400 students in an Elementary building is the best for those students with regards to academics, reduced bullying, community feel, teacher happiness, student comfort, etc.	10/25/2016 9:19 PM
74	We looked at many towns before buying a house in Wellesley. We picked our neighborhood and this town because of our neighborhood school. The proximity to the children's school was a top priority for us. It is not realistic to ask elementary aged children to walk over a 1/2 mile to their school. Even after our children leave Hardy I believe the school adds value to our home and neighborhood. I do not want to see any school close.	10/25/2016 3:11 PM
75	Reducing the number of schools is NOT conducive to the neighborhood school model we all know and love in Wellesley. You would be taking away the center of a community. Making families travel further to their elementary school does not increase the neighborhood school feel, it decreases it. Reducing the number of schools in Wellesley takes away the opportunity to walk to school for so many families. Larger schools bring us closer to a regional school feel; I did not buy a home in Wellesley for this. Do not close a school and take away the neighborhood school model that has proven so successful in this town.	10/25/2016 3:11 PM
76	I love that Hardy kids can also walk to the Fells Library and Fells Market. The Hardy neighborhood, like Hunnewell, has families who enjoy a pedestrian lifestyle.	10/25/2016 12:06 AM
77	"Small" is not defined. 2 class sections @ Upham is too small to allow operating flexibility & efficiency. 3 is efficient and 4 offers flexibility. "Defined neighborhoods" makes sense based on natural delineation such as main roads, natural barriers, etc. However, redistricting has happened in the past and, given inevitable demographic changes in town, will likely occur again at some point in the future. While safely walking to school is a wonderful experience, it may not be practical for all residents currently (or in the future) due to distance.	10/24/2016 10:34 PM
78	no need to cross route 9, more personalized attention with smaller schools	10/24/2016 6:55 PM
79	Minimizes folks driving through the neighborhood as most will choose to walk. Please keep in mind that the elementary schools need to be where the houses are most affordable, where younger couples can buy for the first time.	10/24/2016 3:19 PM
80	Keep parents who dreamily romanticize the idea of neighborhood schools happy.	10/24/2016 3:11 PM
81	An environment that feels small and close knit for younger children.	10/24/2016 11:30 AM
82	Community/neighborhood feeling - ties with the school and staff	10/24/2016 11:12 AM

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83	Smaller Class sizes (which I don't think the first option "Smaller number of Classrooms" applies. The sense of creating a more intimate community feeling at the local elementary schools is very important, and not one that you can easily put a price tag on.	10/24/2016 11:00 AM
84	Please remember that it has been a very long time since we had neighborhood schools throughout Wellesley.	10/24/2016 10:09 AM
85	A school that is small enough for teachers to know all students.	10/24/2016 9:56 AM
86	smaller class sizes so the children can feel comfortably connected to their classmates and teachers. Smaller class sizes means it is more likely that every kid gets noticed and valued for who they are.	10/23/2016 9:13 PM
87	Walking to school	10/23/2016 8:06 PM
88	F	10/23/2016 7:51 PM
89	we need to have a elementary school districts that make sense geographically and minimize traffic the current elementary districts are gery mandered and do not make sense need a plan that benefits the most residents	10/23/2016 6:12 PM
90	Educational benefits of smaller population of students at each school, and limited number of classes for each grade. Please see the following: <a href="http://www.aps.edu/re/documents/2005-2006-publications/ES_School_Size.pdf">http://www.aps.edu/re/documents/2005-2006-publications/ES_School_Size.pdf</a> AND See: <a href="http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/class-size/">http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/class-size/</a>	10/23/2016 10:04 AM
91	Smaller is better	10/22/2016 11:49 PM
92	Walkability of neighborhood schools is key in reducing traffic congestion, and is important in maintaining property values.	10/22/2016 9:18 PM
93	Good education	10/22/2016 8:22 PM
94	No	10/22/2016 6:02 PM
95	It is easier to improve schools functionality, fundraising and parent's involvement through small size schools. We do prefer to pay better and more teachers than construction and buildings.	10/22/2016 12:23 PM
96	school promotes/creates a local community in it's district	10/22/2016 7:35 AM
97	Smaller total enrollment	10/21/2016 10:37 PM
98	An innovative structure that demonstrates technology, has flexible spaces to accommodate multi audiences, and evokes a positive and current "vibe".	10/21/2016 8:03 PM
99	This is clearly as biased question. The question should be whether a neighborhood school is a necessary thing.	10/21/2016 4:02 PM
100	Small neighborhood schools and being able to walk to school is critical to the child and community experience . Learning is not enhances by a pretty building and the old construction is more beautiful welcoming and it is good for out kids to not think everything has to be new and shines to learn	10/21/2016 3:31 PM
101	smaller no of students per class	10/21/2016 3:03 PM
102	I think that every school in Wellesley is a "neighborhood" school because we are all in one community. I do not think that distance from school or walkability matters. Look at the way Fiske school has a great community.	10/21/2016 1:33 PM
103	Number of students is small enough that the principal, secretary, and specialists are able to know the names of all the students in the building.	10/21/2016 8:47 AM
104	Wellesley gave up neighborhood schools decades ago. we don't have neighborhood schools now. we need a strategic plan to manage school populations in the future including up and down population shifts that will always occur. This has been a topic of discussion for decades.	10/20/2016 9:25 PM
105	School buildings need to be safe and built to code. There is no need to replace existing buildings just because the town needs to do another project. It is the quality of education that defines a school not how fancy the buildings are. It is an utter waste of money to take on unnecessary construction projects like this in the town.	10/20/2016 7:38 PM
106	I consider a "neighborhood school" to be on in which there is a strong culture at that school and a love of the school by the students, parents and teachers. A school does not need to be within a certain distance from my house for this to qualify. In my opinion, all of our schools are "Neighborhood Schools," regardless of how far away one might live to the school. Wellesley is not a very large town.	10/20/2016 5:31 PM
107	Unable to finish survey, keeps jumping back to 15 I have lived in Wellesley for 40 years, I am single and to be honest with you I am tired of paying so much for the schools, I love children, but am not in favor of abandoning neighborhood schools which I feel is most important for the elementary children.	10/20/2016 5:29 PM
108	fewer students in each class	10/20/2016 3:12 PM

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109	This may be effectively the same as the "intersection" of the 2nd and 3rd items I already selected above, but I believe that the natural geography of the town is highly significant here and is the most important factor in really determining what is a safe, walk-able, neighborhood school. I find Rt 9 to be the most significant geographical "obstacle" at the elementary school age group and feel it would be best to minimize the amount of students crossing it.	10/20/2016 3:00 PM
110	I think 3 classes at each grade is a pretty perfect size. Bigger than that sounds overwhelming for young children and would increase traffic and driving.	10/20/2016 2:13 PM
111	School building will fit the scale of the homes that are currently, and continue, to be built around it (i.e. the replacement of 2/3 bedroom Cape style homes, with 4-6 bedroom homes for larger, younger, families)	10/20/2016 2:09 PM
112	Smaller class sizes. Not necessarily the # of classes in a particular grade	10/20/2016 12:39 PM
113	One that represents our community commitment to future Wellesley residents with sustainable features that demonstrate our desire to use less fossil fuels (solar,wind on school property)	10/20/2016 12:39 PM
114	The culture of small elementary schools & friendships that are made for both parents & students are priceless. Otherwise, what is the point?	10/20/2016 12:38 PM
115	We bought in a specific town (Wellesley), and in a specific neighborhood (Dana Hall) for one reason...the future walkability, for both of our kids, to the Hunnewell School. I am actually shocked at the focus on cost...this is the educational future of our children and people want to close a school (Hardy) to save a few hundred tax dollars per person? That's ridiculous. People complain who don't have kids in the WPS about the tax burden? Why are you living here paying taxes if you don't have kids (Past/future)? I'm supposed to emphathize with someone that is living here with no kids and complaining about taxes? Move if you don't like it. I say this seriously because if Hunnewell closes for renovations we will be considering a move. I can't think of one good reason for closing an elementary school...not one...besides saving tax dollars.	10/20/2016 12:20 PM
116	Community of children and parents to support a nearby school and playground with access to fields, access to the town of wellesley for our kids is something we considered when choosing to move to wellesley that they would be able to walk to town safely with friends as they grew older	10/20/2016 12:19 PM
117	The ability to live among your fellow classmates than their families. The sense of community extends to who you see walking to school and at pick up	10/20/2016 12:17 PM
118	Smaller class sizes	10/20/2016 12:09 PM
119	(1) smaller number of students per classroom (2) impact on residential property values	10/20/2016 12:07 PM
120	Smaller class size	10/20/2016 12:02 PM
121	Maintaining neighborhood, walkable schools reduces the scale of Wellesley for the elementary years. It reduces the traffic and travel time for out of school activities and provides a special level of independence for 3rd-5th graders. Sense of community in these smaller schools should not be underestimated or undervalued.	10/20/2016 11:19 AM
122	Children have friends' homes within walking distance for social interaction outside school hours to build independence and sense of belonging to community and can take a break from technology to engage in in-person human interactions.	10/20/2016 11:17 AM
123	I have 1 child in Schofield (our district) and 1 child in Hunnewell (out of our District due to special needs). We therefore appreciate the merits of safe walking distance. However student dynamics and parent-staff interactions are better/more personal in Hunnewell than Schofield because it is a smaller school (2 classes per grade and a smaller office staff). My children will be in middle school in 2-4 years but I think these will be important factors for future students.	10/20/2016 11:17 AM
124	A balanced model and number of students per all elementary schools	10/20/2016 11:14 AM
125	Parental pride and involvement in the neighborhood school.	10/20/2016 11:13 AM
126	Minimize school traffic, particularly with so many parents choosing to drop off/pick up kids vs. decades ago when many kids took the bus	10/20/2016 11:09 AM
127	We need to improve the conditions of the schools, but we don't need to go crazy. the size of classrooms and the quality of teachers are the most important thing for elementary school students. People need to reel in their egos and understand that this isn't a college science lab. It is an elementary school. Let's focus on the kids, not the parents who want to brag about how fancy our schools are.	10/20/2016 11:05 AM
128	They are all features, however they do not define the quality of the educational opportunity	10/20/2016 10:49 AM
129	Sense of community.	10/20/2016 10:49 AM
130	Reasonable class sizes	10/20/2016 10:47 AM

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131	Simply put, schools with greater than 3 classes per grade are unworkable educational models. As exhibit A, see the Newman Elementary School in Needham, which has 5 classes per grade.	10/20/2016 10:46 AM
132	The school is big enough to support a range of students within the grade. To me, this means that 2 classrooms per grade is too small. With 12 boys in the entire 4 grade at Hunnewell, my son cannot find the needed peer for every level of his development both inside the classroom and at recess. The school is big enough to support fluctuations in enrollments, without redefining of students. The 2 classrooms per grade are always hitting up against the upper guidelines as opposed to 3 classrooms per grade resulting in a potential imbalance in education across the schools.	10/20/2016 10:43 AM
133	School where there is ample parking for families to drop off / pick up children, large grounds and structures for children plan, modern educational facilities, outdoor space for outdoor learning, cutting edge technology, "green" school, proper space for all "specials" - art rooms, music rooms and great gyms. I am fully in support of consolidating schools to generate resources to make this list possible.	10/20/2016 10:37 AM
134	My children were always bused to Hardy Elementary School. They received an excellent education and are thriving in the Middle School and High School. I have seen no compelling evidence from the town to indicate that schools that have "neighborhood" characteristics provide a better educational experience than other types of schools.	10/20/2016 10:37 AM
135	i	10/20/2016 10:36 AM
136	Adequate space to adjust for population shifts	10/20/2016 10:35 AM
137	Families feel more invested in participating in the school culture when their school community is comprised of their neighbors and the school is physically located in their neighborhood. School and neighborhood culture strengthens when families interact on a daily basis walking their kids to and from school. Families feel more connected to schools and make more effort to be involved when the schools are a small enough size that the expectation is that families will know each other.	10/20/2016 10:35 AM
138	Small number of students per classroom.	10/20/2016 10:32 AM
139	The building of a community that arises from the students living near each other and families building relationships from overlapping at the start and end of school. Confidence that is developed in children by allowing them to learn and grow in a small, supportive environment. Building their social skills and ability to manage and work through problems on a smaller scale is so essential to their learning and development as they grow.	10/20/2016 10:29 AM
140	Schools should be sited in areas of high student population density within a 1/2 mile radius. Elementary school kids do not walk a mile.	10/19/2016 8:58 PM
141	A neighborhood school has a flourishing community because people feel invested in both neighborhood and school. Children feel known by staff, teachers, and administrators which enhances the sense of community and improves the individual child's experience and education.	10/19/2016 8:48 PM
142	J	10/19/2016 8:47 PM
143	The school is locate in an area where the majority of children can walk to school. Walkability for 5-10 year olds should be no greater than 3/4 of a mile.	10/19/2016 7:50 PM
144	I really never understood the community model- its not what I grew up with.	10/19/2016 4:52 PM
145	In addition to appropriately-sized classroom (based on projected attendance in each), the neighborhood school must have adjacent athletic fields which cater to specific athletic and recess activities of that school. However, athletic fields cannot be unreasonably large in order to plan for future building expansion.	10/19/2016 4:50 PM
146	Neighborhoods (plural) - Bates School, for example, has at least 4 different neighborhoods attending.	10/19/2016 4:25 PM
147	smaller school size, sense of familiarity of faces in the school yard, ability of principal to observe, coach and mentor new teachers effectively (i do not think current principals are as effective at mentoring as they should be.) the size of the school discussion focuses only on the child...there needs to be more discussion of the administrative impact of a larger school on the school psychologist, the principal. More and more kids have emotional issues. Putting them in larger schools creates a factory feel. This is not what Wellesley should stand for.	10/19/2016 3:43 PM
148	When moving to Wellesley 3 years ago, our family specifically chose the Upham neighborhood because it provides a safe route for our children to walk or bike to school. I believe it is crucial to continue to have two neighborhood schools, north of Route 9, to safely accommodate our children.	10/19/2016 3:39 PM
149	the same features that apparently drove the sizing decisions when Sprague and Bates were sized in the +- 18 classroom model. The people have spoken on this issue twice already. Stop beating us over the head with unpopular ideas like super schools that increase traffic and distance between facilities.	10/19/2016 3:37 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

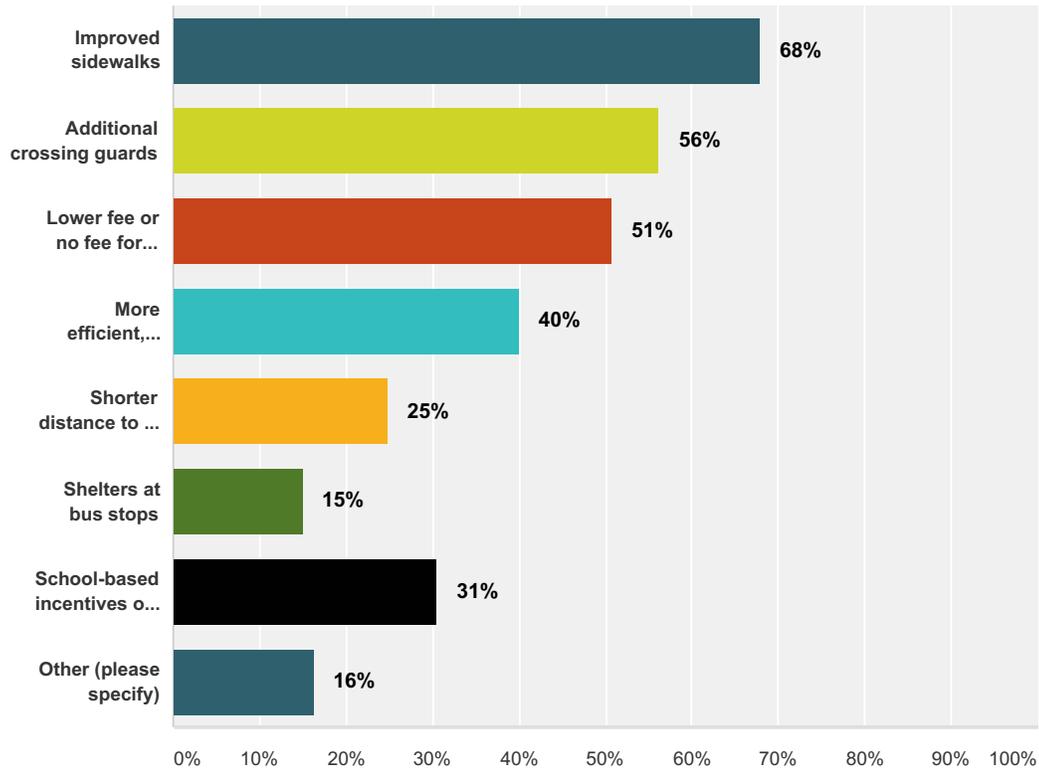
150	Hardy and Upham must be shut down and a new school needs to be built on the Upham property. We need to have 2 schools north of rt 9. We cannot build over at Hardy or the North 40 because traffic would be ridiculous. This was presented during one of the first meetings and the plans were solid. Rebuilding all 3 schools is not a sound, economic decision. Thank you for all of your efforts!	10/19/2016 3:35 PM
151	Not having to cross Rt 9! Not everyone can walk safely to school, but maintaining 2 schools north of Rt 9 is important	10/19/2016 3:27 PM
152	Feeling of community among students and parents. My children attended a great neighborhood school - Fiske - although they and the other children in the Abbott Road / Triangle area rode buses to Fiske	10/19/2016 2:43 PM
153	Low students/teacher ratio	10/19/2016 2:22 PM
154	Wellesley is known for its neighborhoods. Our neighborhoods have very distinctive cultures as do the schools. It is important to recognize these unique differences that residents of the neighborhoods cherish. They give our elementary schools personality and have residents bond to their Childs school in a very personal way.	10/19/2016 1:18 PM
155	Fits with acceptable traffic in local neighborhoods	10/19/2016 11:56 AM
156	Although I define neighborhood schools as buildings where students can walk to school, many long-term members have noticed that children no longer walk to school in large measure as in the past.	10/19/2016 11:30 AM
157	Schools that cover a wide variety of grades and therefore become part of the fabric of the neighborhood. In contrast, schools that consolidate K-2, 3-5 and cover broader geographies for shorter periods of time in a student's life are not neighborhood schools in my mind.	10/19/2016 11:29 AM
158	Class size of 20 or less for all ages is very much a priority. Also keeping each school in close proximity to the residences of that school to minimize busing. I have not heard any discussion about how to IMPROVE the education received, as everything appears to be based on physical configuration and the physical size and location of the schools.	10/19/2016 11:04 AM
159	Sufficient but relatively small with high quality environment. Well maintain/improve neighborhood fabric. Vitalize the community and bring neighborhood closer.	10/19/2016 10:53 AM
160	School districts centered around schools with kids attending the school that they live closest to. Enough room in schools for kids who live closest to school to attend.	10/19/2016 10:48 AM
161	A neighborhood school implies a cohesive community of families with children attending that school.	10/19/2016 10:37 AM
162	A qualifier on walkability: some of our current elementary schools do not offer the ability for students to walk. I wish these questions were more nuanced.	10/19/2016 10:25 AM
163	A neighborhood school is a cohesive functional organization. If the town pulls apart or closes elementary schools every ten years, then there is a lack of cohesiveness and it is necessary to put a lot of effort into rebuilding the community which I do not think is good for the town as a whole.	10/19/2016 10:12 AM
164	My experience living in the Fiske catchment area is that there is not one definition of "neighbourhood schools". We live 2 miles from Fiske and bussing was necessary. Therefore, it is frustrating to listen to the rhetoric of the "Save Our Schools" advocacy group who think that walking to schools is a right. I believe that Wellesley has hit a point where we need to ask what model we can afford.	10/19/2016 7:19 AM
165	No comment	10/19/2016 7:02 AM
166	So far, the most important educational factor isn't in this survey. Do not make elementary age children or the adults in the building go to school while a major renovation is underway. Also, we were a Sprague family having been redistricted. Our kids had a terrific educational experience and we have many friends from that time even though our oldest are in college. That district is made up of pockets around town. Having moved, we are actually still in Sprague's district without needing to be given the youngest is now high school age. Neighborhood is not as important as people think. The school and everyone in that building are what make the school.	10/19/2016 7:01 AM
167	Neighborhood schools provide a sense of community for parents as well, especially parents of young children. Wellesley has built its reputation on the neighborhood school model and it has attracted many, many young families because of them.	10/19/2016 6:48 AM
168	Under 400 students	10/19/2016 6:26 AM
169	Tight community of families and teachers, particularly the specialists who see every kid every year (if they do not retire/leave the job due to lack of classroom space)	10/19/2016 6:06 AM
170	- a school community that has 400 or less students	10/18/2016 11:54 PM
171	Would be curious to know how many kids actually walk or bike to school.	10/18/2016 11:51 PM

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172	Neighborhood schools help build community - you get to know your neighbors. That helps Wellesley maintain its town vs city-like feel.	10/18/2016 11:40 PM
173	Bigger schools have more teacher collaboration. Children are resilient regarding change but parents are not.	10/18/2016 11:14 PM
174	If I wanted my kids to attend a large elementary school that didn't encourage "community", or invest in a home that didn't have a community feel, I would've moved to a different town to begin with.	10/18/2016 10:40 PM
175	I believe that having kids in the neighborhood attend the same school is very important. The policy of closing sections and sending kids to different schools undermines our neighborhood school model in Wellesley.	10/18/2016 10:27 PM
176	I think we need to redraw the boundary lines for certain school districts!	10/18/2016 10:19 PM
177	Y	10/18/2016 10:03 PM
178	Neighborhood schools typically mean many families can safely walk to school but not all. Walking to school is enjoyed by some but not exercised by all who can.	10/18/2016 10:03 PM
179	The neighborhood school is a building block in the formative early years; walking to school with siblings and friends, expanding their self confidence when they bike along the familiar route. It's important to hold onto that environment...families know each other's children, teachers know the families. There is a built in support system. Larger consolidated schools are the opposite of what we moved to Wellesley for, which was small, 2-3 session neighborhood schools. 3.5-4 session schools are too big for our neighborhoods.	10/18/2016 9:22 PM
180	No expectation that *all* kids can walk to school, but some kids will be able to walk to a neighborhood school.	10/18/2016 9:04 PM
181	Less than 400 students with no more than 18 sections will meet both decreasing and increasing enrollments now and in the near future. Over 70 years our family has experienced the increasing and decreasing enrollments, and no one has ever expressed a need in elementary schools for extraordinary construction features which increase the overall construction costs.	10/18/2016 7:19 PM
182	18 classrooms and some level of walk-ability.	10/18/2016 6:22 PM
183	I think it needs to be proportional to the other schools - one elementary school should not be double the size of another.	10/18/2016 5:25 PM
184	under 1/2 mile walking distance.	10/18/2016 5:24 PM
185	Traffic and pollution will be reduced if more students can walk to school in their own neighborhood. If that requires redistricting people will get used to the change after a while. Building scale/size is not a factor: the needs of the students are the priority. Optimal school size is whatever makes sense to reduce traffic and construction cost.	10/18/2016 5:22 PM
186	Benvenue st is too busy for my children to walk to school so keeping it. "Walking school" is irrelevant to us.	10/18/2016 5:16 PM
187	Maintaining the existing school district lines should not be an objective. Hardy has suffered from overcrowding for all 9 years we've been there. We need to address the student population growth and high new construction rate in the Hardy district. There is more overcrowding on the horizon.	10/18/2016 5:16 PM
188	Smaller class size	10/18/2016 3:51 PM

**Q21 Which of the following factors do you think would likely encourage more children to walk to school or take the bus rather than being driven in a car? (Choose all that apply.)**

Answered: 1,799 Skipped: 266



Answer Choices	Responses
Improved sidewalks	68% 1,219
Additional crossing guards	56% 1,011
Lower fee or no fee for busing	51% 914
More efficient, shorter bus routes	40% 722
Shorter distance to bus stops	25% 447
Shelters at bus stops	15% 270
School-based incentives or awards for walking	31% 550
Other (please specify)	16% 292
<b>Total Respondents: 1,799</b>	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Not sure	11/1/2016 10:09 PM

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2	Improving the safety around the school grounds, at Fiske they won't make a crossing with stop signs to make it more safe for our kids.	11/1/2016 10:04 PM
3	There would need to be a real attitude/behavior change on the part of the parent community.	11/1/2016 9:18 PM
4	More supervision on buses.	11/1/2016 7:33 PM
5	Small, local schools allow most children to walk and get some exercise in the morning and afternoon. This exercise is very important for young children.	11/1/2016 6:24 PM
6	bus monitors on all buses	11/1/2016 5:41 PM
7	Bus stop monitors (adult supervision)	11/1/2016 5:37 PM
8	I think walkers will walk no matter what the situation.	11/1/2016 5:12 PM
9	We should do everything possible to encourage more walking (or bus service) and actively discourage driving.	11/1/2016 4:48 PM
10	Just wanted to add a comment. I drove my child to school almost every day until she could drive herself, because my street, Benvenue, does not have sidewalk in my section. There are frequent terrible accidents on this street.	11/1/2016 2:35 PM
11	WELLESLEY HAS NO PUBLIC BUS SERVICE FOR ITS RESIDENTS (not just for school children)--a GREAT LACK, given the taxes we pay. A town bus service would be a great advantage for residents (especially the elderly) in light of the recent huge increase in traffic passing through the town, and it would cut down on parents driving their children to school. It's amazing that the only way for Wellesley residents to get to the "T" is to drive and park at the car park, or take a taxi.	11/1/2016 2:06 PM
12	Better, safer crosswalks. Many current crosswalks do not even have appropriate curbs for easy on / off.	11/1/2016 1:29 PM
13	In this town parents even close like to drive their kids to school	11/1/2016 12:57 PM
14	Not sure anything would change the minds of parents. It would require a culture shift.	11/1/2016 12:19 PM
15	Proximity of school to neighborhood is the single most important factor.	11/1/2016 11:00 AM
16	Walking to school is a family decision and commitment, not really related to the fees/sidewalks/etc -- often involves schedules of other family members and the desire of the family. Many families drive for convenience sake, no matter how close they are to the school.	11/1/2016 10:59 AM
17	Regular walking school busses	11/1/2016 10:50 AM
18	Parents need to encourage and help children to walk to school or to take the bus. Children do not make the decision to be driven to school, adults do. Safer sidewalks and control of traffic are very important for children when walking.	11/1/2016 9:21 AM
19	Biking and walking (without an adult or responsible older child) is not always a safe option. Increased commuting traffic at morning school times, please narrow streets make accidents a possibility. I would like to see enhanced busing as an answer, rather than putting kids at risk.	11/1/2016 9:21 AM
20	People will list the above excuses for why their children don't walk, but even if you eliminate them, they kids won't walk- fact is that parents prefer to drop their kids off even when they can walk and need to pick them up at day's end to get to their activities. Also rain, snow, etc. The % of kids who walk to Schofield over the past 20 years has declined, even as sidewalks crossing guards, have stayed constant .	10/31/2016 9:13 PM
21	i don't think anything would encourage kids who are not currently walking to walk	10/31/2016 3:46 PM
22	Education of the parents is the most important issue to get the kids walking to school . The parents need to leave the cars at home and either walk with their children to school , or organize their child to walk with others so they are not alone. My children walked every day and we coordinated this with other children living nearby. My older caught was in charge of walking with her three years younger sister to and from school each day. The parents now at Schofield line up on Cedar Street idling their engines, spewing out pollution. Have an ongoing VIGOROUS campaign led by the PTO s to have children walk to school because we do have neighborhood schools. If parents are going to continue to drive their children, then we should give up the idea of neighborhood schools and follow Weston and just have one big school somewhere.	10/31/2016 3:14 PM
23	It is a time issue. It is easier and takes less time to drop off than walk down the street, wait for the bus, walk back home, and repeat, for the adult. Also can run late, or early, no need to worry about the bus.	10/31/2016 2:11 PM
24	I think children not walking to school is more complicated than the choices offered.	10/31/2016 12:59 PM
25	bus drove by our street to head out to further reaches (where busing was required) - always only a few people on this bus... seemed silly to have to provide that bus for people 2 miles away from school with nobody on it - maybe add five neighborhood stops where kids can hop on to better utilize these routes	10/31/2016 11:09 AM

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26	Coordinating with neighbors so children have the option to walk or bike to school with fellow students, either with or without parents.	10/31/2016 11:06 AM
27	Charge parents to pick up their kids, there is no reason for these long lines at pick up and drop off, penalize parents financially for driving to school by making the fee double that of the bus fee.	10/31/2016 10:36 AM
28	More traffic enforcement against parents double parking, making illegal U-turns, and blocking traffic to drop off an pick up their children.	10/31/2016 9:29 AM
29	Stop driving kids to school on a regular basis, only drive when absolutely necessary.	10/31/2016 8:34 AM
30	Wellesley has some sad looking sidewalks, our trails are better maintained than our sidewalks.	10/31/2016 8:14 AM
31	Daily walking busses	10/31/2016 7:20 AM
32	I agree that walking and activity is extremely important for children and adults. However, given family work schedules, after school activities for children and safety concerns I don't thing the ability to "walk to school" is a prime consideration in planning for the configuration of Wellesley's schools. In addressing the importance of physical activity, a policy could be put in place that children have two recess periods a day, the option of standing desks and movement breaks and that NO child is every "kept in for recess".	10/31/2016 5:51 AM
33	Better buses	10/31/2016 5:43 AM
34	Better curb cuts and crosswalks	10/30/2016 11:42 PM
35	Police presence (our crossing guards are often ignored by impatient drivers so kids need more protection)	10/30/2016 10:38 PM
36	Keeping all elementary schools open so that better chance a school is walking distance.	10/30/2016 7:10 PM
37	Currently the safest way for children to get to school (elementary) is to be driven by family members... Incentivizing children to walk is good in concept, but might be missing the point...Safety is the goal but improved sidewalks may not be the answer... Distracted Driving is the real threat... Primary issue is safety...If improved sidewalks are the way the Town moves forward on this then Sidewalks must be insulated from; 1) Cars over-riding curbs and 2) Kids driving over curbs and into the roads... There is so much distracted driving and walking happening now (in part because of lack of adequate police enforcement) that any kid walking or biking to school is at risk.... I have seen cars drift over curbs nearly going onto sidewalks where people are walking (Weston Road) ---often times these are Mothers on Phones or Contractors on Phones.... I have also seen teenage boys bike riding over curbs (Weston Road) and falling into the road head first as a car was coming at him...near miss fortunately... The only reason I have seen fewer Executives/White Collar types doing the same thing is that they are often on the road very early, and they usual go through Weston to take the Mass Pike East to Boston or West to Worcester ... So, while sidewalk safety is important, the only way to keep children safe is to modify adult and adolescent behavior...And the only way to effectively do that is to incentivize the Police (who are already greatly burdened) to make Wellesley known as a "Strong Enforcer" of penalties (\$500/Incident to start) for unsafe distracted driving of any kind... Hope it helps...I grew up here...Love the Town and the Schools...	10/30/2016 6:22 PM
38	Education of parents and children about the benefits of walking or taking the bus including health benefits for all of exercise. Education about the environmental impact of individual cars - use of fossil fuels, idly while waiting for pickup, lack of social interaction found on buses and while walking to schools.	10/30/2016 6:01 PM
39	Neighborhood walking groups	10/30/2016 5:15 PM
40	The fee is the big one. Education is a right, so transportation should be as well.	10/30/2016 4:26 PM
41	We were redistricted from Schofield to Sprague when my children were in elementary school. At that time, we were told that we live in the triangle that would always need to be bused. Then we were told that because we lived in walking distance (walking along Route 9!) of Sprague that we would have to pay many hundreds of dollars for the school bus. My children were in the WCCC after school, so this amount was for only one way. Therefore, I drove my children to school - adding to our crazy town traffic during rush hour. I believe that free or low-fee school buses would greatly benefit our town - reducing traffic and better for the environment. Biking is ok for such a brief period due to our NE weather!	10/30/2016 2:28 PM
42	my 3 children walked or biked together to upham and middle school crossing rt 9 ---they grew up, became responsible young children.	10/30/2016 1:52 PM
43	Traffic kept out of the neighborhoods.	10/29/2016 9:46 PM
44	traffic kept off of neighborhood "cut-through" streets.	10/29/2016 9:46 PM
45	Re: bussing- I don't know enough about busing to know how to encourage students to take the bus	10/29/2016 2:53 PM
46	Don't know, but more adults would have to watch them, especially as snow piles up along sidewalks where children can't be seen - especially when dark!	10/29/2016 2:19 PM

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47	Might form "walking buddies" or somehow link kids up so that they would come to school in groups - good social time for them....might even, depending on time, have a program where some of the HS / Jr High students help kids get to school...or get adults who walk for exercise are encouraged to use the school routes...more people could make it safer from the parent perspective.	10/29/2016 1:54 PM
48	Fit bits!!	10/29/2016 1:38 PM
49	Social awareness that kids can be safe walking vs being driven directly to the doorstep. (In a massive SUV)	10/29/2016 12:55 PM
50	We have a culture now (at least in Wellesley and other affluent towns) where parents who don't have to work are available to chauffeur their children from one activity to another. I'm not sure that's going to change in the near future.	10/29/2016 12:46 PM
51	Have police actually enforce traffic laws, even if it means ticketing Wellesley residents	10/29/2016 12:30 PM
52	The parents prefer to drive their children. It's easier. A drop-off and pick-up policy / strategy is necessary.	10/29/2016 12:22 PM
53	Question 13 and 15 seem loaded, assuming that you want to build two new schools rather than renovating what is there.	10/29/2016 9:39 AM
54	Sidewalks need to be added and repaired. It is currently unsafe to bike and/or push strollers on many of the main sidewalks that lead to our public schools. This includes Rt.9 by Kingsbury for our middle school aged children. The sidewalk is almost unidentifiable!	10/29/2016 9:00 AM
55	They would get more exercise with no extra effort.	10/29/2016 7:35 AM
56	safer street crossings--for example, Benvenue street is notoriously dangerous to cross. Yet the town of Wellesley has been ignoring the residents' concerns for years and refusing to build crossing areas and additional sidewalks along Benvenue. This is unacceptable. The town must become more accountable to the residents and help us improve the pedestrian safety of our neighborhoods.	10/28/2016 9:59 PM
57	Improved sidewalks would benefit all residents!	10/28/2016 9:24 PM
58	I don't believe these factors affect the number of kids walking to school. It has more to do with available time and convenience for the parents. All of the concern about traffic stems from the fact that nobody walks anymore.	10/28/2016 9:05 PM
59	Has the possibility of creating a K-2 and 3-6 schools. Letting families drop all kids at same school and bus other kids to upper or lower school as needed. (Such as is done by WCC?)	10/28/2016 7:03 PM
60	Plan for inclement weather.	10/28/2016 6:49 PM
61	Develop a plan for inclement weather; most people shouldn't mind walking if the weather is reasonable. When its not, parents will transport their kids - drop offs can be efficient if the schools plan for a good approach.	10/28/2016 6:37 PM
62	Everything in this survey likely involves raising taxes. We really should have decided to improve the schools years ago, before we voted for tax increases for the other luxuries we have in the town. I am all for helping education/children, but increasing taxes again may put a burden on my family.	10/28/2016 6:18 PM
63	a monitor on the bus to address behavior on the bus	10/28/2016 5:29 PM
64	Maintaining or even increasing the number of elementary schools.	10/28/2016 4:23 PM
65	There would have to be a SAFE route - don't just look at distance.	10/28/2016 3:20 PM
66	Sidewalks and traffic are two of the biggest concerns for school aged children. Many sidewalks are dangerous to walk on or non-existent. Generally, during school drop off time, people are driving way to fast around Wellesley.	10/28/2016 3:16 PM
67	The only people who benefit from neighborhood schools are the those who live approx a 10 minute walk from the facility. Look at the yard signs supporting the "neighborhood schools" and they are concentrated on the few that live within this distance. All others drive their children.	10/28/2016 3:07 PM
68	Having parents pay extra to drive kids to / from school so that there is more incentive to take the school bus. We have to cut down on traffic because even people close to the school still drive each way	10/28/2016 2:27 PM
69	The reality is we are a crowded Exurb, and there is a lot of traffic especially in the morning. As someone that had a friend die when he was walking on a sidewalk and a car jumped the curb and hit him - I am well aware of the inherent dangers of walking on sidewalks along streets with traffic. So my personal opinion is that walking at an elementary age, while great, should be done with an adult supervisor. Thus I do not think we as a community should be encouraging more kids to walk ALONE to school, simply given the density and traffic in our town and many of the school walking routes. And thus to base educational and facility decisions on this presumption of walkability is misplaced.	10/28/2016 11:04 AM
70	My observation is that too many children are being picked up from school by parents in cars. That should be addressed for community reasons.	10/28/2016 10:48 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

71	Not having to cross busy roads	10/28/2016 9:06 AM
72	This is on the parents not the children. The parents would direct children to walk to school or take the bus.	10/28/2016 8:13 AM
73	My daughter took the bus to WMS and WHS and she had a walk to the stop. I think more kids would take it if it was closer.	10/28/2016 12:04 AM
74	Encouraging parents to let their kids walk rather than driving them on any day that isn't sunny and 65+	10/27/2016 11:26 PM
75	The school bus schedule for Wellesley High School is ridiculous and useless! The bus comes down Glen Road at 6:45 in the morning and gets the students to WHS 20 minutes too early. If students don't have a first class until 8:30 am, the 6:45 am bus is ridiculously early! Instead of school buses for middle school and high school, it would be MUCH better to increase the public bus route to make it more convenient for MS and HS students to ride it to and from school. They would pay the fare when they ride, just like any public bus. The school bus requires families to pay in advance, but many MS and HS students get driven one way daily because of the horrible bus schedule! So we are paying a very expensive fare each ride! And, due to the route on the way home, it takes 40 minutes for my high schooler to get home!!!! In cities, there are buses that take MS, HS students, elderly, everyone. We don't need to have separate school buses that have useless schedules and are very exoensive.	10/27/2016 10:06 PM
76	No Child needs to walk, parents can drive if they wish.	10/27/2016 8:36 PM
77	Wellesley is one of the only towns to charge outrageous costs for busing kids to school. Thus, most parents drive to and from school everyday. That causes MAJOR traffic jams around all Wellesley schools both in the morning and at dismissal times. The backups on Weston Road because of Hardy are UNACCEPTABLE, and I will likely vote to close Hardy for that very reason.	10/27/2016 7:33 PM
78	better bus service + a less-than desirable timeframe when cars are allowed to pick up/drop off in the school driveway	10/27/2016 7:29 PM
79	traffic lights that respond quickly to foot traffic. The one on Crest and Linden is counter productive and tests pedestrian patience. I have been told consultants set the timing, and are unable to change it. Really??	10/27/2016 5:36 PM
80	Parents have to encourage walking even in inclement weather.	10/27/2016 5:32 PM
81	Force parents to drop off their kids at a point that still required kids to walk some distance to school, make drop-off and pick-up wait lines long. The number of kids driven to school is ridiculous and the impact on people trying to get anywhere in town at various points is a real inconvenience.	10/27/2016 4:22 PM
82	Less demand for student activities after school. Any students are picked up to get to next activity or after-school care. This is a real challenge.	10/27/2016 4:12 PM
83	Unanswerable as it is highly dependent on the route the child needs to take. If the goal is to reduce the drop-off and pickup traffic there should be some consideration given to providing alternate drop-off and pickup spots such as from a different direction/road.	10/27/2016 3:10 PM
84	I am amazed at the number of families within short walking distance to school that drive every single day, every single time. I think grass roots and rewards based walking efforts may make a difference.	10/27/2016 1:03 PM
85	Free buses	10/27/2016 11:22 AM
86	A young child does not want to walk far.The best option is to have them live close to the school. Inclement weather is apart of New England. Adding snow and rain to their distance makes it harder.All of the above options turn Wellesly into a more Urban town. I moved from the city because I wanted my children to grow up in a safe rural neighborhood. Tearing down woods and adding sidewalks, buses, bus routes and bus shelters is taking all the charm out of our town.	10/27/2016 11:02 AM
87	Proximity is key. The closer, the better	10/27/2016 8:02 AM
88	None of the above or no opinion. We were not eligible for the bus but too far too walk	10/27/2016 6:53 AM
89	The sidewalk situation is terrible in town. Our neighborhood is dangerous for walking during rush hour.	10/26/2016 11:20 PM
90	Walking routes away from very busy roads e.g. Weston Road, due to safety concerns.	10/26/2016 10:53 PM
91	absolutely SIDEWALKS. In the Upham neighborhood there are no sidewalks on Suffolk Road. Shameful.	10/26/2016 9:45 PM
92	No longer have children in the system, but would want improved sidewalks and, depending in location of school, additional crossing guards.	10/26/2016 9:44 PM

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93	At Upham we do NOT have a crossing guard. The Upham district also does not have sidewalks on every street in the school district. It is also important to note, that the school does NOT allow children in grades K - 2 to walk by themselves after school by themselves. A parent or guardian needs to pick up their child. Now that my children are older they can walk to and from school. Another point to consider, is that because we get dismissed so late many of our students have after school activities that start at 3:30 or 4:00 and parents need to drive to school to pick up their children and take them to their extra curricular activities.	10/26/2016 8:42 PM
94	We were more than a mile away from our elementary school and kids would have had to walk along route 16. Both parents work so dropped them off.	10/26/2016 5:02 PM
95	Nothing will stop parents from driving	10/26/2016 3:32 PM
96	We need better sidewalks or More importantly sidewalks added. We don't even have one on part of Hampshire Rd!!!!	10/26/2016 2:16 PM
97	It really comes down to proximity to the school. Most working parents would love to but can't take the time to walk their children if the school is too far. You could build beautiful wide sidewalks, but if the school is not "walkable" few will use them.	10/25/2016 4:00 PM
98	If you want more children to walk to school, don't start by closing a school. Closing a school discourages walking. I would never pay a fee for busing, so unless it's free, I won't consider it. There are so many other fees (athletics, etc.) that I can't consider adding a busing fee. Adding sidewalks to areas without them is a wonderful idea, but they still won't be used if the kids are walking too far. If bus stops are too far away, parents will still put cars on the road by driving their kids to the bus stop - I've seen this happen. We have to remember that these kids are young. Some just 5, 6, 7 years old. Many parents won't let their kids wait alone at a bus stop. Those who walk, often do with a parent. I think you have to think about walking in terms of the "opportunity" to walk, not whether kids do or don't, will or won't. Weather changes, schedules change and kids' independence levels change. If you want to get the most walkers, don't take away the opportunity for more families to walk by closing schools.	10/25/2016 4:00 PM
99	Unfortunately, there will always be people who drive their kids regardless of anything done to encourage walking or taking the bus. Maybe there should be a charge for driving!	10/25/2016 10:45 AM
100	Make driving less convenient by putting less priority on drop-off lanes and parking.	10/25/2016 12:41 AM
101	Lighter backpacks! I know this is more of a problem in the older grades, but still... Less homework is better in so many ways!	10/25/2016 12:09 AM
102	Walking is a function of parental mindset and parental work schedule. The former setting the tone for the kids and the latter impacting the former. From personal experience at WMS & WHS, the bus schedule was earlier than our family was willing to entertain so we tended to opt for carpooling. I do not believe Wellesley will ever have bus shelters and I would not support the town paying for transportation fees or shelters.	10/24/2016 10:55 PM
103	Busing to the elementary schools! This is not a current option. This would eliminate 300 cars twice a day!	10/24/2016 7:57 PM
104	this is not a major issue	10/24/2016 6:56 PM
105	There are NO sidewalks on half of Suffolk Rd, this is a major route to the back entrance of Upham with lots of speeding traffic at school arrival/dismissal times (plus landscape/construction traffic). This is a BIG problem and the #1 reason why I would not let my children walk on their own or ride bikes to school. We desperately need sidewalks from Suffolk (by Bristol) up to Nantucket).	10/24/2016 4:20 PM
106	Basically, people want to know their children can walk to school safely. In my neighborhood, most parents walk with their children, but we also take comfort in the fact that there are many neighborhood adults out watching our kids as well.	10/24/2016 3:23 PM
107	Brain wash their parents who are terrified on non-existent dangers.	10/24/2016 3:14 PM
108	Safety is my primary concern. With the streets between my home and Hunnewell being used more frequently as cut through streets (thank you, GPS systems!), I am more concerned about the volume of traffic on the streets. More traffic = less safety.	10/24/2016 1:50 PM
109	I do not have good knowledge of the busing situation. Thought should be given to walking safety with regard to traffic patterns, crosswalk placement, and crossing guard placement. The timing of nursery school drop off also affects driving rates at the elementary school level.	10/24/2016 1:41 PM
110	more children would walk if they lived closer to school.	10/24/2016 10:25 AM
111	I am not comfortable with my child taking a bus. Due to personal experience and lack of supervision there is no way I would send my child on a bus. Otherwise I would have moved to Weston.	10/23/2016 9:53 PM
112	My children will walk to school if they see their neighbours and friends walking - a benefit of having a community school.	10/23/2016 9:18 PM
113	distance - more children will walk to school if their school is near their home.	10/23/2016 8:09 PM

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114	I think it is necessary to encourage parents to encourage their children to walk to school. This is not the schools's job.	10/23/2016 8:09 PM
115	Safety to let kids walk alone	10/23/2016 7:54 PM
116	Walk to school gives neighborhood kids and there parents to gather to and from no matter what grade they are in. Older siblings walk younger. Have seen this and have personally experienced this.	10/23/2016 6:19 PM
117	parents having to pay a school "contribution" for convenience of driving kids	10/23/2016 6:10 PM
118	,	10/22/2016 8:24 PM
119	Bussing more kids to school would improve traffic, decrease pollution and be better for the environment	10/22/2016 6:47 PM
120	Create dog drop-off zones so parents may walk their child w their dog to school.	10/22/2016 3:03 PM
121	Real bike lines and real bike safety	10/22/2016 1:42 PM
122	I would recommend feeing any parents using cell phone (talking, text etc.) in the car pick up line or near school grounds. I see this all the time and it is very dangers.	10/22/2016 1:07 PM
123	more access to use bus- add additional buses or have more frequent bus runs- currently there is wait list of students who wish to use but buses at capacity forcing parents to drive if school not within waling distance- ie > 1 mile away. More bus use and walking will also reduce traffic around the schools	10/22/2016 9:15 AM
124	As a working parent I feel one way I have to spend time with my children is to drop them off and pick them up myself	10/22/2016 8:11 AM
125	B	10/21/2016 10:41 PM
126	Parents making it happen. Driven kids get dropped off by parents en route to work.	10/21/2016 10:16 PM
127	Busses that are less crowded	10/21/2016 6:32 PM
128	Adding sidewalks on neighborhood streets to make it more safe...If parents felt that kids had access to sidewalks whole way to school they would let their kids walk more even at younger ages.	10/21/2016 4:34 PM
129	It is not possible to walk from Standish Rd. to Fiske, but we were not eligible for busing because it is too close.Need sidewalks on Oakland for this to make sense.	10/21/2016 4:21 PM
130	Biased question -- you are clearly placing a value on walk to school	10/21/2016 4:03 PM
131	Nothing will change this	10/21/2016 3:59 PM
132	We bike to Hardy and find it is very easy to do on the sidewalks. I don't have any comment about the other schools but sidewalks are important for children to ride safely on.	10/21/2016 2:41 PM
133	I prefer to take them, at least through 4th or 5th grade	10/21/2016 2:35 PM
134	Parents who encourage their children to walk. Many parents do not.	10/21/2016 1:33 PM
135	Peer pressure. The more kids walk/bus, the more others will follow. Maybe pay the kids to walk during the first month of school, \$5/day	10/21/2016 12:31 PM
136	Homes close to schools. We live next to one school but do to crowding send our kids to another school that is not walkable.	10/21/2016 11:51 AM
137	I don't think we should be pushing more people onto buses, but if that was the chosen direction, a lower fee would probably encourage some additional use.	10/21/2016 11:43 AM
138	How children get to school often is more of a function of a parent's schedule than a child's choice. For example, if a parent needs to head to work immediately after dropping off, walking a child to school, even if feasible distance wise, is not feasible schedule wise.	10/21/2016 11:16 AM
139	A before school program or option that allows for parents to walk with their kids and also get to work on time. This does not mean instruction would start at that time, but it would allow for a parent to walk their child, drop them at school, and have time to walk to their home to commute to their workplace (if they do not work from home).	10/21/2016 9:05 AM
140	It really bothers me that homeowners along my daughter's route to school have been allowed to take out the sidewalks on their property. There is now no way for my daughter to travel to school on continuous sidewalks. She would have to travel on Lowell Road, which is very curvy, on the side of the road, with Wellesley drivers. Not acceptable. I really regret that I do not feel comfortable letting her walk or bike to school.	10/21/2016 8:47 AM
141	Significant public awareness: "Make it cool to walk to school--Give it a bad feel, to be in your automobile!" Seriously, peer pressure goes a long way.	10/20/2016 10:33 PM

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142	I view the towns current bus routes relative to our neighborhood as absolutely unacceptable, and the individual who manages the routes as entirely inflexible to hearing parents concerns. We have a dozen kids in the neighborhood who would ride the bus if they simply accommodated coming up Maugus Hill, and they absolutely refuse to. Fix this and you'll have more kids taking the bus.	10/20/2016 9:54 PM
143	Parents or caregivers available to walk with kids, rather than drop off at school in cars.	10/20/2016 9:42 PM
144	neighborhood walking pools and car pools for remote kids. encourage bike travel. travel to school should be considered a fitness event.	10/20/2016 9:35 PM
145	crossing guards that are on busy streets like Weston Road 15 minutes later than they are now in the morning and after school. Another Blinking light cross walk at Pine Plain and Weston Road	10/20/2016 9:28 PM
146	The least number of children possible should be bused. Walking, particularly walking home from school, is extremely healthy for children.	10/20/2016 9:26 PM
147	Sidewalks. Even in Poets Corner, Damien road is appalling . Too many parked cars . Sidewalk on one side of the street. On snow days it is not safe.....compulsory sidewalks and make people shovel them for safe passage. It is not acceptable for kids to be walking in the middle of the road. Even in Somerville, kids could walk on a pavement, if not you were fined.	10/20/2016 9:25 PM
148	Not needing to cross Route 9	10/20/2016 9:15 PM
149	I	10/20/2016 9:08 PM
150	Not having to cross a major road (like Weston Road).	10/20/2016 9:02 PM
151	Parents need to be incentivized/social norm needs to be walking and buses which does not appear to be the case in Wellesley. No fee or free buses and more efficient shorter bus routes and school based incentives for walking are the most important, but all may have a positive effect.	10/20/2016 8:42 PM
152	School-based incentives for riding the bus. Walking in this climate is not going to happen 180 days a year - the bus is a logical option if you make it appealing to the kids.	10/20/2016 8:25 PM
153	Peer pressure that walking is cool and driving is bad. Let's face it: when the cool kids get dropped off in a fancy car, everyone else wants the same thing. The peer pressure would require parents to lean into the project and resist the temptation to drive their children (rather than walking them or using the school bus).	10/20/2016 8:12 PM
154	Closer school	10/20/2016 7:55 PM
155	Parent education and engagement	10/20/2016 7:34 PM
156	Schedules that coordinate with middle and high school. There is more than one school represented in a household with varying start times, it is difficult to carpool. I also think a culture of walking. All three of my boys were in walking groups that met each morning and they walked nearly every single day to Hunnewell	10/20/2016 6:22 PM
157	Until	10/20/2016 5:31 PM
158	This question is unfair and clearly aimed at building new consolidated schools. Not cool!	10/20/2016 4:32 PM
159	I'm assuming that the parents are walking with their children to school. We have biked to school in the past, I'm pretty sure it was over 2 miles. We mostly have sidewalks for Hardy but when we lived in the Sprague District it would have been nice to be able to walk along Rt 9 safely. Traffic in Wellesley is horrible during school hours. The traffic on Rt 9 is much better during rush hour when the kids are on vacation. I think that our transportation system is a town-wide problem and thus should be in the town budget, not the school budget. If the bus system were on the town budget I believe that a lot more thought, care and attention would be taken to get our bus system to work better for all of the townspeople.	10/20/2016 4:08 PM
160	Moving schools further from neighborhoods would encourage more use of buses but I do NOT advocate this. Wellesley is not a bus community except for a few neighborhoods located furthest from their elementary schools. Maybe over time it would change but I doubt it. Even as a full time working mom I've felt the pressure to walk my kids to school when they were younger and drive them as they've gotten older and the middle and high school are further from our home. I wish buses worked but do appreciate the neighborhood school idea and so was willing to find ways to make it work due to the benefits to the feel of the neighborhood when so many walk to school. I would not want to lose this.	10/20/2016 4:06 PM
161	Less traffic! ( I know...not possible)	10/20/2016 4:05 PM
162	Town-wide campaign/policy to encourage people to shovel sidewalks in winter. There are a number of homeowners in my neighborhood who do not clear their walkways that are used by kids walking to school.	10/20/2016 3:31 PM
163	For us the start time is the issue. We use the before school program.	10/20/2016 3:22 PM

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164	A change in the mind-set of parents. I have no idea why so many children are driven to school every day, mine are not, we walk.	10/20/2016 3:05 PM
165	Not having to cross a busy intersection like Weston rd. and Rt 9 would help the walkability.	10/20/2016 3:01 PM
166	Proximity to school (walking). Better adoption (busing).	10/20/2016 2:44 PM
167	I was surprised when I moved here that bus service was not provided to elementary students unless you lived more than 2 miles from school. There is no safe way to walk to Fiske from my neighborhood unless you go through the woods (wildlife, uneven ground). The other options are walking along Rt 9 (50MPH) or Oakland (no sidewalks). I'm not sure if HHU have any families affected like that, but just being 1 or 2 miles away does not always mean it is safe to walk to school.	10/20/2016 2:17 PM
168	Buses don't really encourage a neighborhood feel or close ties to the school.	10/20/2016 2:15 PM
169	Longer times at the school grounds where faculty are present to supervise the children so that caregivers that need to leave or drop off their children, can do so earlier by walking without trying to fit into a 15 minute time window.	10/20/2016 2:11 PM
170	Keeping 7 schools would encourage more children to walk.	10/20/2016 1:40 PM
171	Keeping the status quo	10/20/2016 1:12 PM
172	People in this town need to slow the heck down while driving!!! Everyone seems to think that they are too important to drive the posted speed limit in other neighborhoods but then have hissy fits when anyone speeds in their neighborhood. The hypocrisy is astounding. This is the primary reason why I no longer ride a bike in town and why I am not comfortable with my children bike riding in town. Walking is much safer, though crossing the street can be a challenge when people aren't respectful of pedestrians. Remember it is more important for Johnny to not be late to lacrosse practice than it is to drive safely!	10/20/2016 1:06 PM
173	Bus stops are very close together in our neighborhood. Would love to see an 8:30 bus for High school schedule with late days. I understand that it was tried during construction, but my guess is that it was seen as temporary and perhaps folks were not willing to try it for just a year. Would love to see more bussing across the board in this town to reduce car traffic.	10/20/2016 12:42 PM
174	We live on Benvenue Street which is very busy - if we had a sidewalk or crossing guard on brook street to benvenue at the top and bottom we'd be more likely to walk to school	10/20/2016 12:22 PM
175	For WMS and WHS - while not the topics of this survey - the bus routes are much too long and not student friendly. we have always been walked but joked that our kids could crawl to WMS and would arrive before the bus! Same with WHS	10/20/2016 12:19 PM
176	Enforcing idling restrictions on public ways to prevent parents from lining up their cars (e.g., along Weston Road) to either drop off or pick up. People drive because it's convenient and because there is no (individual) cost associated with doing so, even though the societal costs -- increased traffic, fewer children walking, requirement that the parent or caregiver have a car in order to get the child from school, stigma that if you are taking the bus you are poor, etc. -- are significant.	10/20/2016 12:15 PM
177	I don't think busing is the answer for Wellesley schools part of the Wellesley community is dropping off and picking up children at school in elementary schools. Walking is preferred method.	10/20/2016 12:13 PM
178	Variety of police efforts to preserve/improve safety for my child in terms of danger from cars and criminals	10/20/2016 12:10 PM
179	Short distance to school	10/20/2016 12:04 PM
180	Creating a walking/biking culture (including mingling or play time before/after school so families feel the benefit of arriving and leaving by foot); having schools located in the center of districts so maximum number of kids can walk.	10/20/2016 11:35 AM
181	We are 1.999 miles on foot to fiske, so we have to pay for the bus. We feel like we are being good citizens By using the bus instead of the car; would prefer not to have to pay so much per year for this choice to use the he bus.	10/20/2016 11:32 AM
182	Our neighborhood does not have sidewalks. I walk my kids to school 90% of the time. My daughter wants to walk by herself. I will not let her until she gets to a sidewalk (Crown Ridge). Cars are driving too fast on Avon, Curve, Maurice and are not paying attention to the road!	10/20/2016 11:28 AM
183	We should have more ambitious incentives. e.g. rewards for various milestones (e.g 25, 50 and 100 days of walking to school). If a signifiant portion of children are walking most days, walking will become more popular among students and there will be increased safety in numbers.	10/20/2016 11:27 AM
184	-Programming, not just infrastructure -Proper and inviting dedicated use staging areas at schools for students when they arrive early to school, with activities and supervision -More flexible and broader arrival times at arrival and dismissal -On site social activities and community activities well before and well after dismissal times -Dining/food options before and after school -smaller backpack loads -More off-street pedestrian and or bike paths -Dedicated barrier-separated bike paths -Driverless car queuing area at schools (coming sooner than we think for older students)	10/20/2016 11:25 AM

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185	parents	10/20/2016 11:23 AM
186	Sidewalks and crossing guards need to be greatly improved. The town should look to Longmeadow, MA. as an example and goal in this area.	10/20/2016 11:16 AM
187	rewarding students to walk as a group of two or more	10/20/2016 11:16 AM
188	More reliable bus service. If the bus doesn't come one morning it is not always clear why or if the bus is late, etc. The MBTA has online status indicators for trains and busses, for example. It is a nightmare/disaster situation if a bus doesn't come and parents are not waiting for the bus with the kids.	10/20/2016 11:12 AM
189	Wellesley really does not have the best sidewalks. Even on well-traveled routes, you'll be walking along, and the sidewalk suddenly ends, requiring one to cross the street. As far as distance for getting to school, there is a huge difference between a kindergartner and fifth grader negotiating a one mile versus two mile distance. My child likes to ride his bike to school every day, but but job next to him (it's nearly a mile to Sprague from our house).	10/20/2016 11:11 AM
190	The cost of the bus in this town is outrageous, given our taxes. The operating cost of buses should be built in to some other 'fund' so that families aren't paying for a service which should be included for residents.	10/20/2016 11:07 AM
191	Weston Road is out of control. People drive like lunatics. I watched someone run a red light in front of the Hardy crossing guard last week. We need to slow people down and make the walk/bike to school safer. I would not allow my kids to ride their bikes on Weston Road under current conditions.	10/20/2016 11:07 AM
192	Busses are not the same as walking to school...I do not think that Busses can be lumped into the same category as walking, which is how this question is phrased.	10/20/2016 11:02 AM
193	Bike paths	10/20/2016 10:57 AM
194	People will use the bus but most people do not have bus as option because if they live <2 miles away its not an option. given we are community schools most people live within 2 miles BUT also most people wont walk to school if over 1/2 a mile... only option is to drive to school.	10/20/2016 10:52 AM
195	Dedicated bike paths (there is no direct, safe way for kids to ride (or walk) along Rte. 9 from "the Cliff Road triangle" to Sprague). Currently, if a child walks or rides their bike from our neighborhood (which is the closest to Sprague of the "triangle" neighborhoods), the shortest possible, safe route is 2.25mi (Cliff to Washington to Linden to Everett to Westerly to Oak to School) along some very busy roads; this distance can reach 3+ mi for some of the farther "triangle" neighborhoods. Rte 9 is far more direct, but there is currently not easy access to or adequate sidewalks along Rte 9, nor crossing guards at either Oak or School Sts.	10/20/2016 10:50 AM
196	Hah! As a 90% walk to school of just under a mile, it's a lonely winter walk. I don't think there is much to convince families. It would be great if the school didn't ban children from walking home without supervision until late into the 3rd grade year. It is unrealistic to say anything more than a mile is walkable. It would be great for traffic if the district could encourage busing for that 1-2 mile segment of the population, maybe reduced-fee busing for K-1.	10/20/2016 10:49 AM
197	Walking school bus	10/20/2016 10:44 AM
198	at this point this does not apply for us as we walk back roads to school	10/20/2016 10:42 AM
199	The social dynamics and noise level in the buses themselves can be daunting.	10/20/2016 10:40 AM
200	Further development of the trail system and separation of sidewalks from roadways by physical barriers such as grassy areas and trees at least 20 feet from the road.	10/20/2016 10:39 AM
201	Police presence along routes.	10/20/2016 10:36 AM
202	Grouping together all elementary school children in this question (or questions 18 & 19) is not realistic. My expectations for a 5-8 year old (K-3) are very different from a child who is 9-11 years old (4-5) as far as how and when they would walk or bike. I would not feel comfortable with a younger child either walking to school alone, or waiting at a bus stop alone. Please factor in the impact of parents sitting in their cars with their kids waiting at a bus stop when you consider traffic factors. Also consider this in the context of maintaining the socialization that is so important between parents and families if they sit in their cars at a bus stop instead of walking to school, meeting up with other parents and children along the way.	10/20/2016 10:36 AM
203	more space on roads for bicycles.	10/20/2016 10:28 AM
204	Proximity of school to home.	10/20/2016 10:23 AM
205	Walking routes to schools which are designed with pedestrian safety in mind, rather than the convenience of cars.	10/20/2016 9:32 AM
206	I think a general concern is safety coupled with the time commitment to walk. If there were monitors along popular walking paths so people could let their kids walk knowing they were safely being overseen that may help.	10/20/2016 9:31 AM

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207	We live over 2 miles from our districted elementary school and WMS. Our kids took the bus for as long as it was free due to state law that says towns must pay through grade 6 to bus students who live 2 or miles away from the school. The second a fee kicked in we said forget it. We are going that way anyway on the way to work, we'll drive the kids. As long as there is a fee for the bus, we will never sign our kids up for the bus, and I don't care how much the town's transportation department tries to guilt us into it using "green" arguments. How is it so much greener for us to drive our kids to the school than for us to put them on the bus when we are going right past the school anyway? What the bus is great for is alleviating traffic around the schools. Well, we will just be part of the traffic as long as there is a bus fee. We pay too many school fees already. We can't cut sports fees out of our family budget. We can't cut activity fees out of our family budget. Bus fees? Yep, that one we actually do have some control over, and that one we can and do cut out of our family budget.	10/20/2016 9:24 AM
208	Keeping the kids closer to the schools. In the past my kids walked to Bates, then in the wisdom of the school board our neighborhood was switched to Hardy which required a car ride every day. My kids not only lost friends who lived across Weston Rd. but to play with the kids they went to school with now required a car ride instead of walking.	10/20/2016 8:17 AM
209	We live two miles away from the school, thus can't walk or Bike. Majority of people already walk or bike which both helps traffic and hinders traffic (crossing areas on Weston Rd are a daily grind). This question should be more geared towards traffic flow at the schools.	10/20/2016 12:49 AM
210	Busses at all schools for younger children especially in areas without sidewalks	10/20/2016 12:10 AM
211	Safety issues addressed	10/19/2016 11:26 PM
212	Elementary schools should be sited in areas of high student population density	10/19/2016 9:02 PM
213	The bus fee is too high. My children can't walk to school due to the distance and busy and dangerous roads. Also, there is no promotion or advertising of the bus. No encouragement to take the bus! Working parents can't drive their kids to school and then wait 45 minutes in car line, while adding congestion and unsafe hazards to the neighbors/other walkers/general public. I've never seen a town where so many children are driven to school. It's not environmentally sound either, carpooling is another option. You left off quite a few reasons above to check off (environment, carpool, safety, distance and dangerous road conditions)	10/19/2016 8:53 PM
214	Depends on the neighborhood and school. Some schools are on local streets and some busy streets.	10/19/2016 8:33 PM
215	Police presence on side streets.	10/19/2016 8:14 PM
216	Send children to schools that are close to their homes - example - kids in Wellesley Farms should not be crossing route 9 to go to Sprague.	10/19/2016 8:10 PM
217	Schools within walking distance of the children's homes	10/19/2016 7:52 PM
218	Really all of these, which makes me ask... why are you asking this. This all seems like a utopian school commuting structure! It's all about being close enough to your school to walk, being safe, and not having a very long bus ride (10 mins or less) for free!!! Obviously people would love reduced or free busing, I think most people unless they feel like throwing away money would click that.	10/19/2016 7:27 PM
219	A safer society	10/19/2016 7:08 PM
220	Better traffic monitoring, speed bumps, and/or stop signs in residential neighborhoods. Cars travel well beyond the posted speed limits (20+ mph over) with little to no enforcement. As a parent, I am hesitant to walk or let my kids walk because of general safety concerns with traffic in the area	10/19/2016 5:21 PM
221	Parents who are willing to get out of their cars.	10/19/2016 4:51 PM
222	Enforce speed limits and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks on streets surrounding neighborhood schools. So many parents drive their kids to school, but they speed down neighborhood streets like Elmwood Road and Pilgrim Road in the Bates district. They sometimes speed through the crosswalks, too. And they often zoom by the school at speeds higher than the speed limit in their rush to drop off their kids. Altogether, this makes me very reluctant to let my child walk to school. Everybody on the road – pedestrians, cyclists, drivers – everybody has a duty to use reasonable care and caution when they are using the road in any way, but this seems forgotten in the rush to school.	10/19/2016 4:36 PM
223	Safer walking conditions. I don't think it's safe for kids to cross Route 9 or Weston Road or even Washington Street.	10/19/2016 4:34 PM
224	Given what happened during high school construction I'm pessimistic about changing the car culture anytime soon.	10/19/2016 4:14 PM
225	A safe walk (not on weston road) of longer distances would be fine. Hardy is close enough to us, but the walk from mayo is dicey and difficult on such a busy street with little kids. We should be in bates district.	10/19/2016 4:13 PM
226	If parents are able, they are most likely going to drive their children to school to ensure their safety.	10/19/2016 4:03 PM
227	working parents will not have time to walk child to school.	10/19/2016 3:47 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

228	Keeping 7 schools as opposed to 6. Under the draft district lines, which showed Bates students living south of Pilgrim Road being shifted to super Upham, my kids would be force to walk past Bates to go to their new school. That is ridiculous.	10/19/2016 3:39 PM
229	Sometimes the car is the only option especially when you have older children in HS and MS. There is something to be said to picking up your child, whether you walk or get out of the car, it's a great way to meet the parents your children are friends with.	10/19/2016 3:34 PM
230	My children walk, but they need to walk in street for 50% of their one mile walk!!	10/19/2016 3:28 PM
231	Penalties for kids being picked up: last out of the school. Pick up not at the door.	10/19/2016 3:26 PM
232	Apps to track kids. Ensure cars are not speeding and driven safely in areas near school (not just school zones)	10/19/2016 2:27 PM
233	Encourage parents not to pickup kids at school every day and encourage walking or biking to school.	10/19/2016 2:06 PM
234	I have no comment, but SurveyMonkey won't let me move on without one.	10/19/2016 12:53 PM
235	Improve the bus system for elementary, middle, and high schoolers	10/19/2016 11:52 AM
236	my children went to weston schools and bus was free and it picked each person up in front of their own homes. .	10/19/2016 11:51 AM
237	Parents willing to drive their children everywhere, which sets a poor example for students. Parents are the problem.	10/19/2016 11:32 AM
238	Parent's allowing their children to become more independent.	10/19/2016 11:31 AM
239	Creating a culture of walking. This has really been an important part of our elementary experience, but it does take longer. I find it 100% worth it.	10/19/2016 11:31 AM
240	A footbridge over Route 9 must be considered if you contemplate eradicating a school north of Route 9. No plan would be acceptable to me if MORE families have to cross this treacherous road!	10/19/2016 11:30 AM
241	Keep the schools in the neighborhood. If the schools are in the neighborhood, theoretically every child could walk/bike. No busing. Wellesley is not a town for elementary school busing.	10/19/2016 11:25 AM
242	Using a smaller bus - my children are only 2 of 4 that regularly take the bus, but the school still maintains the large school bus instead of getting a much smaller one that would likely be more environmentally friendly and lower costs.	10/19/2016 11:21 AM
243	Given societal & safety changes from 1967 when we moved to Wellesley, Parents are rightfully concerned about having Elementary age children walk very far to school. It is today's reality. Other than placing more School Guards strategically around school neighborhoods I don't have a good answer to this problem. However, having space dedicated to pick-up and drop-off might change the need to park all over streets near the school.	10/19/2016 11:13 AM
244	New stop lights at busy intersections	10/19/2016 11:10 AM
245	Walkable distances to schools	10/19/2016 11:04 AM
246	Guaranteed spot on the bus for all kids attending. Having the kids who live closest to the school be the ones who attend it (living close to the school one attends will tend to encourage walking).	10/19/2016 10:51 AM
247	I am not currently in favor of elementary school kids walking to school without adult supervision.	10/19/2016 10:34 AM
248	Incentives to parents for not driving; suggestions that perhaps too many children have overbooked afternoon schedules, necessitating parent pick-up to make the schedules.	10/19/2016 10:28 AM
249	Supervision on bus to prevent bullying and other misbehavior.	10/19/2016 10:15 AM
250	Implement a toll for curbside dropoff in a car	10/19/2016 10:13 AM
251	I am most concerned about speeding drivers who are not necessarily watching for children crossing roads on foot or on a bike. Speed bumps would slow down fast drivers on busy residential roads that children need to use to get to school. My concern extends to contractors and landscapers' vehicles parked on residential roads without sidewalks. In those areas, children on bikes are forced to pass these vehicles by moving to the center of the roads. This is dangerous since drivers moving on the opposite side of the road may not stop or slow.	10/19/2016 9:41 AM
252	If poor shoulder put in sidewalk	10/19/2016 9:05 AM
253	Safety is the chief concern for why mothers do not let their children walk to school anymore. Please consider security cameras and greater police presence. Something has to be done because traffic is horrible in the town during the school year.	10/19/2016 8:41 AM
254	I don't think buses are An option at elementary schools? Not at bates, anyway.	10/19/2016 8:33 AM



## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

284	my kids took at (packed) bus to WHS at 8:30, there was standing room only at pickup. Somehow this bus was deemed "not populated enough" and the route was changed to a 6:50 am pickup--not useful for a student going in for the average 8:30 class. The result? 60+ on the road going across town and back during rush hour. Such a waste of gas and time...was a big loss for Lower Falls area.	10/18/2016 5:53 PM
285	I don't have any experience with buses re: Upham so can't speak to what would make someone more inclined to ride the bus. My house is at the furthest edge of the Upham district so, with a few rare exceptions, my children never walked. Additionally, though, Hampshire Road -- which would have to be negotiated if one were to walk from my house -- is extremely busy for commuters, has a dangerous blind turn as it approaches Bristol Road from Albion Road, and does not have sidewalks. I can't imagine too many people letting their kids walk (or ride) down that portion of Hampshire Road.	10/18/2016 5:48 PM
286	The biggest obstacle to students walking are the parents.	10/18/2016 5:32 PM
287	The most important thing for walking to school safely is more CROSSING GUARDS. They seem hard to find so they should be paid more as an incentive to apply for that job. My children always walked to Elementary school & High School and found that cars DO NOT pay attention to people in cross walks during rush hour!	10/18/2016 5:31 PM
288	Bike lanes	10/18/2016 5:30 PM
289	With the amount of texting I see going on in Wellesley cars, I would never allow a child to walk to school. It's simply too dangerous.	10/18/2016 5:26 PM
290	Cross walk- I've requested one a few times for Bristol Rd and have gotten no response. No guard required, just a cross walk and signage.	10/18/2016 5:26 PM
291	Creating a sidewalk on Benvenue St. or a providing a crossing guard at school walking times would encourage more walkers and safer driving.	10/18/2016 5:18 PM
292	It is difficult to have kids standing in a driveway on a busy road to wait for a bus in the dark months of winter. I also don't believe the bus fees are reasonable given that kids are required to go to school.	10/18/2016 5:12 PM

# Question 26

The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

**Q26 Do you wish to clarify or explain more fully any of your answers above? Please do so here...**

Answered: 544 Skipped: 1,521

#	Responses	Date
1	I haven't actually gone into the three schools recently, so I don't personally know that they are all in dire need of rehabilitation or rebuilding. Everyone else seems to agree.	11/1/2016 11:23 PM
2	Based on my experience at Hardy, I feel like the small neighborhood school structure of Wellesley allowed me to develop, grow and connect to my community in the most efficient and effective way. I remember walking to school with my older brother to play soccer with my friends in the neighborhood before school started. These are very fond memories of mine that I believe were possible because of the small neighborhood school structure. I feel that a larger school would be both intimidating to elementary school children and hinder their educational/social experiences and growth.	11/1/2016 11:00 PM
3	I have never entered hardy or Hunnewell but my gut would say to preserve what is historic about them.	11/1/2016 10:58 PM
4	It's hard to say what I would want Hunnewell to look like. I like the old school house look but I don't know what the "new look" would be after planning. I wouldn't want an oversize school that looks awkward and stands out. I would like the charm to stay with newer windows, A/C and no trailer extension for extra space. We clearly need more space and want Hunnewell to stay as it is with two classes per grade and the wonderful warm community and staff of teachers that are there now.	11/1/2016 10:45 PM
5	I want the schools to stay small (18 sections or less) for my Grandchildren	11/1/2016 10:11 PM
6	#13: Not enough information to make a decision. Project scope associated w each cost? Impacts & Benefits?	11/1/2016 10:01 PM
7	Investment in education needs to continue as the number 1 priority for Wellesley Retention of current neighborhood elementary schools is a major differentiator for the unique character of Wellesley and the quality of the education This study needs to consider the emotional and psychological impact on children and families from the potential closure of one of these schools. Also the environmental impact from more traffic and burning of fossil fuels to transport children to any consolidation option. Sleep hours are more critical to healthy children and their development - bussing and driving Will reduce the sleep hours for children if consolidation and permanent closure is implemented.	11/1/2016 9:42 PM
8	It was difficult to answer some of these questions without being fully informed.	11/1/2016 9:30 PM
9	I think the #1 consideration in this process should be what is best for our children. School size, class size, and sense of community are probably the top three factors (in addition to wonderful teachers) that shape the elementary experience. We should look to respected research and national experts to gain a better understanding on optimal school and class size to help inform the end decision. Of course, issues like cost and traffic need to be weighed but should not be the driving factors.	11/1/2016 8:29 PM
10	I am very uncertain about the North 40 property being used for a school as it seems not very central to the town and its neighborhoods. I voted that I was open to it as an option but I would want to understand how that would change the school districting. Will children be traveling across town? Route 9 is already complicated by middle school travel. I would not want to put more families on that road to get to k-5 schools.	11/1/2016 8:13 PM
11	Did anyone consider making the Hunnewell location the senior center? What a prime location that would have been. It is centrally located, close to the library and walking trails. Wouldn't be a fantastic community center location? Could you use it for central offices and community center space? Then use the North 40 and Upham for schools with 3 sections per grade, and room for bubble years? Just a few thoughts...	11/1/2016 8:04 PM
12	The value of the schools are mostly driven by the quality of the teachers and the curriculum. That is where the focus should be. The beauty of our town is helped by the beautiful, mature trees. We have too many developers cutting them down like they are burnt out buildings.	11/1/2016 7:54 PM
13	The land behind Hardy is roomy enough to rebuild the school. The. North 40 should be a site where part is green space and part would have housing (preferably for those over 50 yrs of age) that would bring in tax dollars. A school in the North 40 would attract too much traffic and create chaos on Weston Rd and specifically in the Woodland neighborhood.	11/1/2016 7:02 PM
14	Keep the North 40 natural. Perhaps a park or sports field, but NO building or additional parking lots.	11/1/2016 6:55 PM
15	See previous comments.	11/1/2016 6:27 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

16	We really need to control costs. Between the high school and the senior center, it seems Wellesley is always eager to spend money we don't have.	11/1/2016 6:13 PM
17	Elementary children should be introduced to small groups of others their own age for over a year so they will grow and learn together. Five or six years will give them time to slowly start their lives.	11/1/2016 5:31 PM
18	please just make a decision and move on with the best plan for the town in the future. Every persons individual issues is not helping matters. Everyone has their own ideas and the HHU committee should not have included leaders that cannot be objective. This has been a disaster!	11/1/2016 5:16 PM
19	Preserving smaller neighborhood schools leads to tighter communities and in the long run safer communities. Because we walk to school, we know many families in the neighborhood, which has allowed our family feel connected to the school (we volunteer and give back to the school and community bc of the close relationship we have with the school community). Even though we just moved here, we know all the families in my son's grade (bc of the small the classroom size). Please save all schools. Bigger is not better in this situation.	11/1/2016 5:02 PM
20	I think that it is a bad idea to close one of the schools. I disagree with predictions that enrollment will decline significantly in the near future and that enrollment will continue to decline in the future.	11/1/2016 4:53 PM
21	I had been a volunteer in the Wellesley school systems (for 14 years) Hunnewell, Hardy and Upham are old and need to be demolished,Not fixed up ,patched or rebuilt. Just lets move on.	11/1/2016 4:42 PM
22	I support the maintenance of neighborhood schools.	11/1/2016 3:46 PM
23	I feel if the schools in question could be renovated at a lesser cost than building a bigger school by combining two schools, would be a better solution. We do not need another big school.	11/1/2016 3:37 PM
24	I do now feel sufficiently informed yet to answer Question 23 or Question 24.	11/1/2016 3:15 PM
25	Question 13 was badly worded. You did not leave an option that would cover the projected cost, except the single "no limit" option. So I marked that. Of course I do not really support no limit at all -- the schools are not infinitely valuable. But I wanted to indicate that I thought the projected cost was worth while and that was my only way to indicate that. To clarify, the highest option was \$500 per household per year (you didn't say for how many years!) and the estimated cost was around \$600. So, yes, I thought \$600 worth it. But I wouldn't think \$5,000 would be worth it.	11/1/2016 2:52 PM
26	#24: I strongly oppose the building of a new elementary school on the North40 because 1) it would cause even more traffic on Weston Rd, which is already hopelessly overloaded [I understand that Wellesley College will not permit a motorized exit from the North40 onto Washington St...] 2) the community gardens are not only a beneficial community resource, the oxygenic green area they maintain counteracts the effluence from the uncontrollable amount of traffic on Weston Rd., and encourages beneficial wildlife....bees, birds, deer, etc 3) it also provides a beneficial year-round walking/jogging space for nearby residents in what is a relatively densely populated area of town that's affected by the encroaching commercial development on Linden St. 4) I understand that Wellesley College would not allow a motorized exit from the N40 area onto Washington St., which would even more traffic spilling out onto Weston Rd ... .	11/1/2016 2:35 PM
27	In several questions, the choice of answers did not include enough options. (eg the question about having kids in elementary school did not include the option if you attended)	11/1/2016 2:14 PM
28	Although we purchased our house not knowing about the walking to school benefit, this benefit of walking our children to their Elementary Schools almost every school day, has been one of our true favorites.	11/1/2016 1:32 PM
29	My wife and I moved to Wellesley because we saw the town as having a great model for it's school system. The education was great but also having a small neighborhood school worked out well for us because of it's walkability and the smaller community of students and parents. As for the the inconvenience of build a new school, we have been listening to construction from contractors razing houses all around us for 8 years. One more project won't matter. Having Upham double or more in size will be a traffic nightmare for the neighborhood.	11/1/2016 12:43 PM
30	Walk-ability is desirable, but should be compared to the reality actual numbers of families who walk routinely vs. driving. Schedules do not allow for as much walking as families would like. The Hardy and Hunnewell buildings are not historically significant and worth saving. Given how few older buildings in Wellesley have been saved in the last 10-15 years, this should not be deemed important to most residents.	11/1/2016 11:07 AM
31	I strongly believe the environment outside the schools should remain as untouched as possible as well as the student teacher ratio inside the schools therefore having three schools will keep the class-size down and the buildings can be replaced where as the trees and wildlife that live in it cannot	11/1/2016 10:59 AM
32	no	11/1/2016 10:44 AM
33	1. Please renovate / build as quickly as possible, to limit disruption for current and future students. Less than 2 years of disruption. 2. Please make sure the 'swing space' is good. St. Paul's for Hunnewell would be fine (you can solve the playground issue somehow). Hunnewell student to Hardy would NOT be good (due to traffic, size, etc). 3. It is OK to spend money (within reason), to continue to have good schools and facilities. We will gladly pay for these projects.	11/1/2016 10:42 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

34	Priorities in Wellesley elementary school spaces should be on education, safety, and creative play for children. I hope that Wellesley will think about keeping open spaces on school grounds, light and air, and a positive environment for children. It is not just about spending on school buildings as public monuments for the town to be proud of publicly, I hope.	11/1/2016 9:33 AM
35	Parents talk about "walkability", which sounds good, but the fact is that the car line for drop off and pickup snakes through the neighborhood every day, even in good weather. I think parents drive out of convenience and for the ease.	11/1/2016 7:49 AM
36	I worry most about overcrowding in elementary schools if one is closed.	10/31/2016 11:29 PM
37	I think upham and bates are very close and seems like there could still be a Neighborhood school with just one of them. Also Harry's location isn't the best being s close to 9. I also think schools that have three classrooms are not large but just right. It allows for kids to have more opportunities to make friends and less likely to form cliques.	10/31/2016 10:17 PM
38	I don't think that "walkable" is an important criteria. Many parents drive their children to elementary school even though they live within a reasonable walking distance from school.	10/31/2016 9:41 PM
39	I am concerned about traffic around the schools, but also very concerned about traffic through town and trying to get kids through town across Central St in the morning and afternoon will just create gridlock.	10/31/2016 9:18 PM
40	Please consider TRAFFIC flow.	10/31/2016 8:35 PM
41	I find it hard to believe you can't relocate the courtyard tree	10/31/2016 8:29 PM
42	The goal of the HHU project should be to maintain neighborhood schools while minimizing the cost to the taxpayers. An increase of even the minimum approximately \$600 per year per household mentioned in the survey may be too high for a number of households in town.	10/31/2016 8:16 PM
43	I strongly discourage the closing of Hardy school. There is a waiting list to get into Hardy now. Parents have to pay their baby sitters extra for the longer work days.	10/31/2016 6:32 PM
44	It would be an enormous shame to see the consolidation of 3 schools into 2. Many homeowners choose Wellesley because they want their children in small neighborhood schools. To send children to huge schools would seriously impact child development and my desire to send my children there. I'd choose a different town to live in.	10/31/2016 6:08 PM
45	Families that do not have kids should not pay for these schools. We have paid enough for past years. New families come into Wellesley so their kids can go to school and once the kids finish school these same families leave. Others that want to stay in Wellesley are left paying higher taxes for the over rides from the families that have left this town.	10/31/2016 6:08 PM
46	The School Department has been consuming an ever-greater share of the Town budget with no end in sight. It ignores Advisory Committee budgetary guidelines and is consistently late with budget estimates and timelines. It has never complied with the spirit of the Town's long-range planning, intended to spread out the cost of capital expenditures to lessen the impact on taxpayers. The School Department makes a habit of presenting parents and taxpayers with carefully pre-packaged choices, as it is doing now. The School Department's unlimited wants need to be weighed carefully against its responsibilities to the Town and its residents. Our tax bills have tripled, thanks to construction of the new high school, and we haven't even had a chance to consider the fate of the St. James and North 40 properties. Is this really the time for the School Department to rush in with an improbably extravagant plan for the Hunnewell, Hardy and Upham elementary schools?	10/31/2016 5:01 PM
47	We do not need the biggest, best schools in the world. It is wonderful to have a school building that is beautiful but the programs and the staff make it the best. We spend a lot of money on these and many of us who are older are feeling the 'pinch' of higher taxes as we support them. There has to be a way to repair the buildings we now have at a reasonable cost--and still maintain our excellent system.	10/31/2016 4:48 PM
48	I want neighborhood schools to continue. Do not eliminate the Hardy School. Do not build gigantic schools.	10/31/2016 4:47 PM
49	We moved to Wellesley and to our present address in order to take advantage of a walkable, neighborhood school that was intimate and friendly with excellent teachers. Although there has been substantial consolidation, to the extent possible, those criteria should be at the top of the list. The building is the least important.	10/31/2016 4:30 PM
50	no	10/31/2016 2:44 PM
51	I'm a grandfather of kids who went to the Hunniwell school	10/31/2016 2:17 PM
52	The thought of our taxes continuing to go up drastically year after year is daunting for those of us on fixed incomes.	10/31/2016 2:16 PM
53	The cost is out of control. Once our child is out of Wellesley Schools, we will move out as well.	10/31/2016 2:14 PM
54	I do not have kids in the system, but I have been through the entire Wellesley public school system, and have a unique perspective that parents / the older population of the town does not have. I am all for the renovation of the schools, but very against the combination of the three.	10/31/2016 11:31 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

55	I will vote to decline any debt exclusion that takes down Hardy. While usually school parents would vote yes to such a debt exclusion, there is no support for tearing down Hardy. This is a great school. You should have redistricted and put more children into Upham.	10/31/2016 11:24 AM
56	-Demolishing historic portions of existing schools is justifiable in exchange for a better (safer, more sustainable, better space for learning) new school. -Keeping overall school size as small as possible is ideal for cultivating/maintaining a neighborhood school feeling, but more important than overall school size is maintaining small classroom sizes. - Improving students' ability to walk or bike to school is important for student health (mental and physical) and reducing traffic in Wellesley. Incentivize students to do this - like the walk/bike to school day, but more often. -Making buses actually affordable would incentivize bussing, which would also reduce traffic. -Helping parents to coordinate with other parents in their neighborhood would make it easier for their children to walk/bike to school together, and/or carpool if driving is the only option (due to distance from school or bad weather days). Parents might already have the relevant contact information for this, but encouraging carpooling, etc. might make it more likely.	10/31/2016 11:15 AM
57	Hardy & Hunnewell traffic already a mess. Plan longer drop-off lanes into design.	10/31/2016 11:11 AM
58	The original portion of the Hardy School was designed by a prominent local architect, Charles Baker, multiple buildings of his design are on both the state register and national register of historic places. <a href="http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhclid=WEL.1505">http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhclid=WEL.1505</a> We have very little of his work here in town and if we don't protect what we have we will have destroyed a vitally important piece of architectural history. Wellesley likes to think it's "better" than other communities, even the city of Framingham endorsed placing his buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, how can we claim to be better than Framingham if we don't preserve his buildings here? In Framingham one of his former schools is now the administrative offices for the school district, a very good re-use. if the Hardy is closed, tear off the dreadful 1950s addition, put in additional playing fields and use the building for administrative or preschool activities. It deserves to be saved, as were his buildings in Framingham	10/31/2016 10:47 AM
59	I personally support rebuild/renovate our current schools instead of closing any of them.	10/31/2016 9:59 AM
60	The burden to the taxpayer should be the highest priority given the town's latest project - the Senior Center.	10/31/2016 9:50 AM
61	Renovation projects should be done to all 3 schools but should be done in the summer months in phases not to affect school time. Each phase should be such that it can start and complete while children are out of school. Should any one of the schools be demolished the impact to our children will be high as schooling will be affected. Many families move to Wellesley because they want their children to have the wonderful educational experience the town provides. It is not acceptable to derail this by significantly changing the experience (by demolishing a school they are presently attending!).	10/31/2016 9:09 AM
62	I am a real estate broker and while the campaign is to keep neighborhood schools, that is not really what we have here. So many of my clients had to start in a school outside their neighborhood because there wasn't room at Upham, Fiske etc. In the Upham neighborhood this school issue really hurt the values for sellers and I had two buyers who chose Weston over Wellesley because of this ongoing issue. They wanted houses in the Upham area but couldn't go to school there. I think it is really costly to run all these schools and why not put that savings into the education for the kids. This is Wellesley, nothing will be done that brings our kids a sub standard education. Two of my daughters attended an elementary school outside of our district (we lived in Schofield but attended Sprague) and it was totally fine. We were an active part of the Sprague community and my kids never felt left out. They didn't experience a "neighborhood" school and they are fine. I am quite familiar with the Weston School system and they have a lottery type plan where neighbors go to different elementary schools (K-3) and that is also a fantastic school system. Something needs to be done in Wellesley. It is giving us a bad rap outside of town. A plan in place would help a lot!!	10/31/2016 8:32 AM
63	Our children walked to school in their elementary years even while there was much change in elementary and middle school grade models. Our children were affected by a redistricting from Hardy to Bates, and while a concern at the time, it worked well. We support the concept of smaller neighborhood schools.	10/31/2016 8:04 AM
64	It is irresponsible for those residing in HHU to believe they are entitled to smaller class sizes and walkability for "neighborhood" schools and expect those of us residing in other districts to financially support their goal of maintaining all three schools. Many schools in Wellesley have closed over the years for various reasons. Those of us residing in other districts, such as Fiske, live far beyond walkability or biking measures and have had larger class sizes with diverse students, and it is time for those residing in HHU to join the rest of us.	10/31/2016 8:02 AM
65	I do feel strongly that consideration of "neighborhood schools" and "walkability" is outdated. If there is concern about traffic, then Hardy that is directly on Weston Road that feeds traffic from many neighboring towns into Wellesley should be closed. It is notable to me that there were no questions in this survey about the importance of designing "state of the art schools".	10/31/2016 5:51 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

66	<p>Questions 23, 24 and 25 do not offer an appropriate range of responses. Questions 23 and 24 force "yes" or "no" answer with very little additional information. My answer - like many, I imagine - would have been "it depends." Would I support the removal of significant ledge and trees at Upham? It depends on the reason for the removal, and what the alternatives are. Same with Question 25 - could I support a plan that involved the demolition of historic portions of Hardy or Hunnewell? I suppose I "could" - depending again on what else the plan involved, and what the alternatives are. It's very difficult to give an opinion on these questions in a vacuum, and I'm concerned that any consolidated survey results are going to be misleading.</p>	10/31/2016 12:11 AM
67	<p>If Hardy were relocated to North 40, it might alleviate traffic on Weston Road. However, I do not support planning a town-wide elementary school in that location as it would defeat the community based school system we have, which is of great value to parents with school age children as well as property values for new families.</p>	10/30/2016 11:52 PM
68	<p>as town meeting member i have received many compelling letters of parents who moved to wellesley for neighborhood schools and bigger is not better</p>	10/30/2016 11:38 PM
69	<p>We moved to this town for the neighborhood schools. Moving from Philadelphia into a neighborhood where my children would meet other children of which they would be in school with made their transition here seamless. We moved from a 5k square foot home in the suburbs of Philadelphia to a 1,500 square foot home in Wellesley. We were willing to take that sacrifice for our children for them to be in a better school district (we looked in Needham, Natick, Weston) with small neighborhood school. We have watched them make friendships that they will have for a lifetime. We have watched them play in the neighborhood with other children and talk about school, their teachers, and classes just like my husband and I did as we grew up. Small neighborhood schools are something that are hard to come by and we are so lucky to have them here in Wellesley. Wellesley is known for their wonderful schools....why would you tamper with that reputation?</p>	10/30/2016 11:11 PM
70	<p>My children do not attend any of the three schools in question, so I have not educated myself about all of the fine details being discussed by the Committee, but I have to say I rolled my eyes when I read that preservation of a courtyard tree is a point of discussion here. Seriously? We want our kids to get a world-class education, to be good people, and to be ready for the world when the time comes. We therefore need the best schools. Period. Why are we worried about a courtyard tree? And why are we worried about preserving old buildings? What makes them "historic" versus just old and decrepit? I was quite frustrated when my Kindergartner itemized all of the facilities issues her classroom experienced at Schofield several years ago - rain pouring in through the ceiling, toilets flooding the classroom, etc. - so I was relieved when basic upgrades were made to the building. I'd imagine that HHU families want the same, and if that means getting rid of old, energy-inefficient structures, so be it! Don't be sentimental here - look forward!</p>	10/30/2016 10:45 PM
71	<p>Neighborhood schools are best. Keep schools walkable and manageable size fir these little kids. Huge school is not necessary!</p>	10/30/2016 9:40 PM
72	<p>Neighborhood Schools are key to character of Wellesley and a principal reason we moved to Wellesley.</p>	10/30/2016 9:28 PM
73	<p>The sole reason we moved to Wellesley is because of the great school system. We value small schools so as many young families who are considering moving here. A consolidated school system would lower property value, increase traffic and undermine quality of education.</p>	10/30/2016 9:25 PM
74	<p>The North 40 should not be used for any town development (including schools, playing fields, parking lots, etc.). It is a wooded area used by many residents as passive recreation, sits on the aquifer important to our water supply, and is home to an abundance of birds and animals. It should be conservation land - Wellesley has very little green space compared to other neighboring towns. Any school buildings that are needed can be built upon the locations of the existing three schools.</p>	10/30/2016 8:51 PM
75	<p>My chasten attend Upham because of a child in the skills program. How would that be impacted</p>	10/30/2016 8:29 PM
76	<p>Please keep taxes down.</p>	10/30/2016 7:58 PM
77	<p>Cannot answer North 40 question in a vacuum. Also, it seems the committee should first be asking voters if they want to keep all 3 schools open before jumping the gun with all the questions related to school consolidation. If the majority of voters want to keep all 3 schools open...then many of the questions are moot...and others would need to be re-worded.</p>	10/30/2016 7:17 PM
78	<p>I do not want to spend any more money for schools than I need to.</p>	10/30/2016 6:48 PM
79	<p>If the 1924 &amp; 1936 Hunnewell Buildings had to be replaced, they should be replicated as far as possible to maintain the character of Wellesley...Part of that character is the CourtYard Tree which should be preserved (very important)... Doing the above could give the Town badly needed upgrades to the education/physical plant as well as maintain the quality of Wellesley's strong/positive educational image</p>	10/30/2016 6:40 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

80	My opinion is that neighborhood schools should remain small and in the each neighborhood. Historic preservation is important to me, but I do not know enough about the history of the schools to say that I would not support eliminating specific elements of the existing structures. There have been some very creative reuses of historic structures including the Wellesley college Science Center and Natick Center for the Arts. My main interest is the social aspects of neighborhood schools that are lost in consolidation.	10/30/2016 6:05 PM
81	Small neighborhood schools are my highest priority. Environmental, historical, and traffic impacts are not important to me.	10/30/2016 6:01 PM
82	I would support a plan that looks to reusing existing school buildings and locations rather than building new schools on virgin land.	10/30/2016 5:19 PM
83	I would not want an elementary school with more than 350 students. Ideal size would be 320-330.	10/30/2016 5:09 PM
84	The number one priority should be educating the children. If that means consolidating the schools, so be it. This whole process has brought out divisions and inequities among the seven schools. Keep class sizes at or under guidelines, but build a few bigger schools versus lots of tiny schools. Bigger schools also smooth out any gender/SPED/other quirks that occur. When my daughter was at Hardy, her class had 42 girls and 11 boys. Not good.	10/30/2016 4:29 PM
85	I do not think any school should be demolished. Additions can be put on all three school to bring them up to code and additional wiring can be installed in the older sections once the students are housed in the newer sections.	10/30/2016 4:18 PM
86	Absolutely do not ruin the greenery in this town for a newer, bigger school. This town is dense enough. Leave the trees, renovate the schools. Enough with the back and forth already	10/30/2016 4:15 PM
87	I do not agree that it is necessary to demolish the current schools instead of renovating them to bring them up to code. If the conditions (and cost impact) require them to be torn down, I would prefer to preserve (or create) the historical feel as the town was able to do with Sprague. I have spoken with my (college aged) children about this proposal and they feel strongly that smaller elementary classes/schools with their neighbors enabled them to feel supported and be more confident before heading off to middle school. They tell me that they felt a connection (and still do) with their classmates from elementary school. At middle school, they made new friends, but still felt connected with their elementary school classmates. A perfect example of this is my son. His was the first kindergarten class at Sprague. When he graduated from WHS, they had a reunion at Sprague for the 'first class'. Although he no longer had close friendships with his Sprague classmates, he was so happy to connect with old friends and teachers. They shared a special bond. I worry that if we grow the size of our elementary schools, our youngest students will be overwhelmed, distracted, and less likely to build those connections and develop their confidence.	10/30/2016 3:04 PM
88	The learning environment and child welfare should be the primary focus of our town plans. A new building with all the latest everything is very nice but the building does not provide the education. Teachers and programs provide the education, and all of the resources poured into brand new construction could draw the money away from what the primary focus should be. And I think smaller communities provide an optimal environment for students and parents.	10/30/2016 2:32 PM
89	cheers , congratulations to all who have questioned the school board quality teachers are first priority -second foreign language is good but not necessity for 1st or 2nd graders. support for the best schools should rise above the senior center expenses and plans/dreams to expand and do everything for seniors. you move to Wellesley for the best schools, not for country club living for seniors	10/30/2016 2:02 PM
90	Need more info on North 40 option, eg how traffic accommodated. Is entrance on 135 or Weston Rd If Hunnewell tree is savable, that is desirable but probably lasted longer already than expected.	10/30/2016 1:38 PM
91	Construction(teardowns) in Wellsley has resulted in an extremely negative impact on the water table in the town. Replacing mature trees and porous ground that have absorbed water with hard surface area has resulted in more flooded and wet basements and lower land areas. Maintaining the character and integrity of the town is most important too.	10/30/2016 12:09 PM
92	As much as I love the ability to have neighborhood schools (we live very close to all three schools and my children have either biked or walked since 3rd grade), I think we have to be realistic in making these changes. Since there are so many factors involved, including financial and emotional, it is not an easy decision. We have been blessed to be at an amazing neighborhood school and I would maybe feel different if "mine" was taken away. However, town populations change and therefor sometimes changes need to be made that would benefit everyone and not a select few.	10/30/2016 11:33 AM
93	We moved to Wellesley specifically for neighborhood schools. To eliminate even one would alter the appeal to Wellesley and pit neighbors and neighborhoods against each other. In addition, I believe it would adversely affect real estate values. We currently have our house listed for sale and have already seen the affect of "closed grades" at Hunnewell. We have had buyers "pass" on our house because their children couldn't attend the neighborhood school. In addition, I have seen the benefits of smaller schools and smaller classroom sizes first hand. This should be part of the mission statement for the WPS elementary schools.	10/30/2016 10:13 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

94	I believe in neighborhood schools that maintain a size of 3 classrooms per grade. One of the major reasons I bought in Wellesley in 1987 was I wanted my children to walk to school. I believe consolidation of 3 schools into 2 takes away the neighborhood concept, will increase operating costs and transportation costs and will lead to division in the town because which school closes. Note the North 40 I believe is not the answer because of the Weston Road situation.	10/30/2016 8:42 AM
95	I think consolidating to ONE SCHOOL is the best plan. This is not mentioned at all. Less cost short term and long term. People drive their kids to school no matter what the distance. Even people 1/8th of a mile or less away from school, I see driving the kids to school! Consolidating schools would free up money for other needed programs in the schools. One big up to date school would be best for the kids. Like the high school.	10/30/2016 8:25 AM
96	I cannot urge the planning committee strongly enough to abandon any plans of building a large "super school" on the ledge behind the current site of Upham. I agreed completely with the comprehensive editorial written by resident Peter Adler in the townsman several months ago, and feel that this summarized the numerous problems that this "solution" would uncover with great clarity. Such a proposal would, in my mind, most egregiously abridge any idea of maintaining neighborhood schools, would ruin greenspace, and introduce very problematic and new traffic concerns on Weston road given the extreme proximity with the bates school. For what it is worth, after discussions in the Wakelin room with volunteers I agree that a sensible middle path would be to postpone if not eliminate any plans to close any of the schools, and consider renovations only at hunnewell (although I would prefer hardy) and once completed the enrollment needs of the town could be reconsidered at that time, and renovations at the remaining 2 sites could be revisited in that future context.	10/29/2016 11:18 PM
97	I support renovating the existing schools to bring them up to modern structures. I do not support combining schools or building a larger school and redistricting resulting in a lack of neighborhood schools within Wellesley.	10/29/2016 10:43 PM
98	I am an absolute believer in the surpassing value of small, neighborhood schools. They are better for the children, better for the educators, better for the families and better for the community. Above I noted support for 3 sections per year. However, I also endorse 2 sections, but I could not so indicate in the survey.	10/29/2016 10:26 PM
99	Even though I selected a school size of 3 sections per a year I would also be happy with a 2 sections per year solution. Small schools benefit the child, the family, neighborhood, the community and in turn the town.	10/29/2016 10:21 PM
100	No change. Keep all 3 schools.	10/29/2016 9:06 PM
101	We live near the intersection of Weston and Manor. Please ensure the school consolidation, if ever move forward, takes the need of this neighborhood into consideration to minimize the commute of our children to school.	10/29/2016 8:55 PM
102	I have been here 47 years. I have built most of the buildings and even rebuilt them, redone them,. I have bought land, land and more land. Hopefully I can get out when this project begins.	10/29/2016 7:40 PM
103	obviously a tough issue - i would like to see some of mid-level financial information before i could fully get behind any plan: - construction cost estimates per option (renovate and maintain 3 schools, demolish 1, etc.) - ongoing operating budget per option (do we save by eliminating administrative and custodial staff? pension impacts? etc.) - number of resulting classrooms and sizes per option - tax impact curve for build up and then expected ongoing impact would also like to see qualitative impacts - do bigger schools allow enhanced programming options, such as reintroducing spanish language training?	10/29/2016 6:40 PM
104	It is important to look at the cumulative impact of property tax increases over, say, the past 5 years rather than simply considering the current likely increase.	10/29/2016 6:11 PM
105	Wellesley needs to make a decision based upon efficiency and common sense for the future. Kids and families can handle the change as we all handled redistricting 12+ years ago and times before that. Change is good -- hanging on to the past is not. We are a small town and most towns do not offer schools in walking distance of < 1 mile for the majority of children. The kids will all mostly come together in 6th grade at WMS and would benefit from a wider exposure to other children from other areas of town at a younger age. CONSOLIDATE!! Bates and Sprague are 2 examples of slightly larger schools that are flourishing -- even somewhat larger is reasonable. It really is not ideal for 7 small schools to converge into 1 middle school -- kids are forced into a big change at a time in their lives that is already very challenging. Let's ease them in with a larger elementary school. Make busing less expensive and more desirable!!! It can be a great social transition from home to school for so many children. Short distances are safe and the benefits of early socialization are tremendous!!	10/29/2016 6:06 PM
106	A number of older people walk grandchildren to school and value the neighborhood experience. Questions assume people have/had either elementary aged children or no contact with the schools.	10/29/2016 4:20 PM
107	Without elementary school experience in Wellesley, it would be unfair to opine on what should happen to any given school. The concept of neighborhood schools should be preserved, and we don't need to build a Taj Mahal at any location for the children. Good teachers are the key to a good school, not buildings.	10/29/2016 2:38 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

108	One very important reason we moved to Wellesley is because of the small neighborhood school model. There are many studies that make it clear that smaller schools are better for grade school students and parents. Small neighborhood schools promote walking or biking which is better for students' health; they give parents and students a greater sense of security because the school is nearby and parents/children know many of the other students and parents, as well as teachers; they promote a greater sense of community and parental involvement in school activities; and, some studies support the notion that children learn better in smaller schools. To sum up, I would not want to see an elementary school with over 350 enrollment.	10/29/2016 2:28 PM
109	Wish I could remember which I struggled over....comments following each would have been great. Didn't answer one of the questions but don't recall what it was.	10/29/2016 2:03 PM
110	As retired educator and parent (never retired!), I feel strongly that elementary schools should be small enough to feel like a single community. Young children should never be at risk of being "lost in the shuffle"	10/29/2016 1:54 PM
111	The School Committee should find other ways to meet the budgets for school improvement before immediately raising taxes . The town should consider the Senior Citizens who are on more of a fixed budget.	10/29/2016 1:36 PM
112	No	10/29/2016 1:21 PM
113	Making a continued investment in Wellesley's education strategy is appropriate but tempered by reason (and demographic planning). I believe our schools' quality including facilities do contribute to overall property values and thus tax rolls). However, this also pushes more and more 'regular' people away who cannot spend \$800k for a fixer upper...or worse, can't stay because of increasing taxes and fees. Greater focus on multi-use approaches and other cost offset strategies that can lessen operating costs should be considered as part and in advance of a major capital campaign. Further, exaggerated views on what is believed to be essential (e.g. The latest news on simming pools or hockey rinks) will drive unbridled fiscal control. The High School and revamped football field are terrible examples of overspending they also reflect a continued attitude that fails to vigorously look at how the community at large can be advantaged by such spends. I would be more open to investment if clearer stewardship were evidenced there.	10/29/2016 1:14 PM
114	Large school parcels were acquired in past years to accommodate the possible need to expand schools on these properties, not to ensure that abutters would have conservation land next to their houses. I do favor giving abutters of these school properties a 50-foot buffer of vegetation. Noone should have to look out their bedroom window at the wall of a school. However, the town cannot squander its investment in these properties by failing to utilize them when needed. I would also favor the construction of a school in the North 40 parcel for the similar reasons. There should be a mix of uses (including some park land) for this parcel; it would be a waste of taxpayers money to purchase this parcel and simply leave an area so near the center of town as simply woods.	10/29/2016 1:10 PM
115	Please stop the crazy spending. You are forcing people to leave town once their kids are out of school. Throw away buildings are not a plan. Pushing expenses to "one time capital expenses" is not a plan; it's dishonest. Taxes are up significantly and the town is filling with generational money, people who skim off transactions, and trust fund families. Getting very one dimensional and superficial. Start controlling expenses so we get back "real" people.	10/29/2016 12:39 PM
116	It's important to create educational spaces for students that inspire study and learning. While I have no elementary aged students any more in my household, I think combining schools is a mistake. Firstly, demographics are not static even with the best predictions. Technology is making a great impact as a learning tool. That should be a focal point. nowhere is it mentioned about having computer labs in elementary school or perhaps these already exist. As a teacher myself at one time, I know that classroom size of 22-25 is reasonable. But the need for storage ( not just lockers- but supplies etc..) is a priority. Combining schools is short-sighted. Classroom /specialized spaces( and storage requirements) which are shared across the grades, becomes increasingly cramped and scarce. imagine being the art or music teacher. You don't have one grade to work with but K-5.	10/29/2016 12:35 PM
117	In order to have a "History" we have to preserve and up-grade NOT demolish, destroy, tear-down; a town is more than schools; a town must keep buildings that are a VISUAL record.	10/29/2016 12:02 PM
118	The North 40 should be left untouched.	10/29/2016 12:02 PM
119	I encourage more walking and am alarmed by the decline in it over the years.	10/29/2016 11:49 AM
120	I still do not understand the need to condense three elementary schools into two elementary schools. No one seems to be able to pinpoint the educational need or benefit for doing so. Additionally, the elementary schools around Wellesley foster a sense of community for the students and their families. Closing down one of the elementary schools is akin to the HHU committee actively deciding that they would like to break up a community within the town of Wellesley. It would be killing a living, breathing thing. I still don't believe the committee understands this fully. Also, the idea of building new, larger schools on current forest land either in the North 40 or behind Upham school seems like a double travesty. Destroying neighborhood communities and then hurting environment for so-called educational benefit is just bizarre.	10/29/2016 11:25 AM
121	Safety of children, preservation of neighborhood schools and minimal distance from home to school should be top priorities.	10/29/2016 10:31 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

122	Our town generates a lot of tax revenue from commercial and residential sources. Where is it going?!? We don't have trash pick-up and our RDF is a well-oiled machine that is profitable (from what I've read). Outdated schools is unacceptable for our town, but now the residents are potentially responsible for the repairs, upgrades, and/or new construction? I need to do some more research on where our tax dollars are going, but I believe the town needs to be more clear because the optics of this do not look good. I am also perplexed by the "swing" classroom. I can't understand how a child's classroom could be in a temporary setting for up to three years. If this was a business, it would be unacceptable to think employees would be comfortable with this setting.	10/29/2016 9:53 AM
123	I am in favor of renovating the old schools, keeping the historic parts and getting rid of the "temporary" trailers. A very important characteristic of Wellesley is the local elementary schools to which almost all children walk. It creates a sense of community. My son is now in high school, but mothers still refer to "Hunnewell Mom's" long after their children leave the elementary school. The Middle School and High Schools are fully consolidated. Elementary school is the time to have a smaller community that feels more intimate. Just because a building is new, doesn't make it better. I hope that you will renovate the existing schools rather than assuming all new buildings. I would be very surprised if this happens though. There is a show of asking for the public input, but I don't think it is sincere. The decision to get rid of one school seems to have been made, and now it's just a question of how it is justified.	10/29/2016 9:47 AM
124	The educational system of Wellesley is it's major draw and I wish for that to be maintained. My child was fortunate enough to have a neighborhood school and I would want that for others also. Her best friend to this day is from first grade at Bates and they are in their 30s now. One day she told me she was so lucky because her best friend lived only 9 houses away from her! She would verify that her time at Bates was very valuable, enjoyable and important to her.	10/29/2016 9:38 AM
125	Don't build the schools so large that it feels overwhelming to a child. It's for the kids. Not for the adults to show off their wealth.	10/29/2016 9:38 AM
126	My ambivalence on question 11 is based on my belief in real neighborhood schools. (Full disclosure: I am a retired public school educator.) My now adult children walked to Fiske and the school was an important part of "neighborhood" culture as they grew up. I would hope that other neighborhoods would continue to have that experience. On the other hand, the costs projected are surprisingly high. I know inflation is inflation and the sooner the better, but for the renovation of three smaller buildings to cost a similar amount to what we spent on the new high school seems excessive. Any and all efforts to keep those costs down would be prudent.	10/29/2016 9:09 AM
127	Our answers may lead you to believe we have no kids, but our two children were born here and attended private schools from K - 12. We have made no demands on the school system but do not wish to deprive our school children of schools that are up to an acceptable standard. However, we do object to the current educational arms race that is creating public school facilities that are on a par with some of the finest private colleges and secondary schools in the region. And we reject the idea that property values are at risk if we don't keep ploughing money into school buildings. Transient users of the schools often exit town before the bills are fully paid, leaving long time residents to foot the tax bills for many years. Keep things up to date, walkable to preserve neighborhoods, and spend the money on teachers, curriculum, equipment, etc.	10/29/2016 7:52 AM
128	I strongly oppose building a large school that dominates the neighborhood and destroys forest.	10/28/2016 11:36 PM
129	I'm ambivalent about keeping the front of Hardy and I also do not know what year it was built.	10/28/2016 9:32 PM
130	N/a	10/28/2016 9:14 PM
131	As with the old High School, when the facilities are not consistently and adequately maintained over time, it is not possible to justify keeping the outdated structures in any new plan. It is cost prohibitive to go back and remediate the preceding lack of appropriate investment.	10/28/2016 9:14 PM
132	My children attended Hardy and Bates schools many years ago. The experience at Hardy was almost entirely positive. The experience at Bates was mostly positive, with the exception of one teacher who was clearly coasting and should have been let go in one of the cutbacks of faculty numbers.	10/28/2016 8:22 PM
133	No	10/28/2016 8:07 PM
134	I think the children's education should be paramount in the decision making. What kind of school will maximize their education in a high quality environment. Walking or biking to school would be great if it can be done in a safe environment, but the children's education should be our highest priority.	10/28/2016 7:52 PM
135	na	10/28/2016 6:53 PM
136	We don't want the taxes to go up again. Our quality Wellesley education comes from our incredible teachers and families, not from a building. We should really pay off our other loans before taking on new ones. I really wish the decision to improve our schools had been done before the senior center/other luxuries in our town.	10/28/2016 6:28 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

137	I am concerned about increased traffic if upham is expanded as well as the negative effects on property values that will occur in the surrounding neighborhood. This neighborhood has already had to tolerate significant noise and disruption due to mansions development. Adding a major construction of upham would significantly disrupt our quality of life.	10/28/2016 6:10 PM
138	Like the HS, take your most significant piece and incorporate it into the new school and demolish the rest in favor of a new school.	10/28/2016 5:38 PM
139	Property taxes have been increasing continuously for the past ten years. Building the new high school caused property taxes to increase further. Budgetary responsibility should be exercised.	10/28/2016 4:37 PM
140	That annual cost is way to much of a burden to ask of many of our existing and approaching seniors. Almost \$700 a year is going to push more seniors out of their homes. You need to find other ways to pay for some of this construction - it is becoming impossible to afford the taxes in Town with all the "temporary" increases - they are not temporary to tax payers if they last 20 - 30 years.	10/28/2016 4:35 PM
141	It is SO FRUSTRATING for those with children in the schools to act like childless or older residents are unreasonable for wanting to keep costs down. We have never had, nor will we have children in school. WE PAY for other children and that is fine but I don't think it is unreasonable to expect those with children to bear more of the costs of educating them. I think BASIC educational costs can be shared but those with children in school want everything as long as they know someone else is paying for it. BE WARNED-- WE WILL MOVE!!! I am NOT going to pay more in taxes (almost \$25,000/year as it is) if it goes up more. Who will move into our 6 bedroom house if we sell? A FAMILY WITH KIDS! Then YOU can figure out how to pay for educating them!!!	10/28/2016 3:58 PM
142	Upham is a great neighborhood school. All three of my children went through Upham and the size, location and layout all worked very well. Please don't destroy the wooded area and limit any upgrades to those physical improvements that don't change the character and community that Upham represents.	10/28/2016 3:53 PM
143	Less traffic and keep the three schools at the lowest possible expense to local taxpayers.	10/28/2016 3:33 PM
144	There need to be trade-offs. And certainly if Hardy were closed as a school, the cost of doing whatever would happen at Hardy - demolished or rehabbed for other use(s) - needs to be divulged and in the equation. Personally, I think all the elem, schools should have space for 3 sections per grade to better accommodate enrollment fluctuations. I also believe the current policy of closing grades is awful! I am against closing Hardy because it is located in a neighborhood heavily populated with kids and has good land for playgrounds, a magnet for young families, whereas Upham is in a much less densely populated area. Hardy's location also relieves some pressure from Hunnewell.	10/28/2016 3:33 PM
145	Our elementary school aged children attend a private school. We had two children in the Upham district until this year. Many of the Wellesley schools, specifically HHU are deplorable. They are dumps compared to new modern elementary schools.	10/28/2016 3:19 PM
146	Hardy School is obsolete. It is a major impediment to traffic on Weston Road. If they want to renovate the old building it should be used for more town offices. If they build a new Hardy School it should be on the level playing field behind the building with the driving access off of Hickory. I think the Upham plan is probably the best for the Town.	10/28/2016 3:14 PM
147	The town should find a way to preserve its neighborhood schools model without destroying green/wild space.	10/28/2016 3:10 PM
148	Investing in neighborhood schools and investing finances responsibly are key to maintaining our great school system. Our kids deserve a safe and happy environment and we owe it to them to be responsible stewards of the money we'll spend; this means not wasting funds on retaining historical aspects of these old schools. Let's let the past go and build a school that works for many generations to come.	10/28/2016 2:41 PM
149	Personal experience with Wellesley public schools...my daughter went to WHS for 4 years and graduated from the old building in 2002. During her time there, it was painfully apparent that the maintenance of the building was inadequate and had been for many years. I grew up in Wellesley and attended private schools but I had friends at WHS and went to many events there so I was very surprised at the condition of the building by the time my daughter enrolled.	10/28/2016 1:20 PM
150	We live in Schofield district, assume there are reasons Schofield and Fiske schools not a priority???	10/28/2016 11:50 AM
151	As a current parent of Hunnewell School children, I do not feel qualified to answer questions related to Hardy or Upham. I imagine parents at those schools feel equally passionate about retaining their neighborhood schools. I do feel strongly that we should retain an elementary school in the town center and therefore Hunnewell should not be consolidated with other schools. Save our neighborhood schools ans save the north 40!	10/28/2016 10:57 AM
152	We moved to Wellesley to have access to schools that we can walk to with small class sizes. This would be in jeopardy if only two schools are built to replace the existing three. We can only support a plan that has three new schools with redistricting to normalize class sizes across a seven k-5 school system.	10/28/2016 9:49 AM
153	The current system is good enough!	10/28/2016 9:38 AM
154	I would like to see the schools rebuilt in the same location. I strongly support neighborhood schools.	10/28/2016 7:40 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

155	Overall, I support to keep all 3 neighborhood schools	10/28/2016 6:50 AM
156	I'm a former Hunnewell parent. My four children went there. I believe in neighborhood schools and the community, so please don't close one of the schools. I love that many of the kids in row can walk to school if possible. A school on the North 40 would be a traffic nightmare!!	10/28/2016 12:10 AM
157	When the new WHS building was built, they did a great job of keeping historical parts of the old building and incorporating them into the new building (library, 1938 room). It would be awesome if Hunnewell were renovated or rebuilt with that same idea of preserving historical parts of the building. Having two larger schools will result in less personal schools. Horrible idea. The city of Newton recently rebuilt the Angier Elementary School and now they are rebuilding the Zervas Elem School. Wellesley should do the same. Natick HS was rebuilt within a reasonable budget (used modular construction). When some older schools in Wellesley were sold in the 1970s then we needed those schools again, didn't we all learn the lesson not to close any schools forever??? Why do we need to re-learn that valuable lesson? Closing or selling schools buildings is a BAD idea!	10/27/2016 10:14 PM
158	My wife and I moved to Wellesley 4 years ago, before kids, but a huge reason why we bought where we did ( <b>[Redacted]</b> Rd - Hardy) was proximity to the school. It is an easy walk down Hickory to the back entrance. Closing the school would mean no ability to walk to school, and would negatively impact property values in the area. Hardy is in one of the more affordable areas of town where you are likely to get first time home buyers with young kids and closing the school would not only impact current homeowners, but squeeze more people out of Wellesley where it has become increasingly difficult for young families to afford to buy their first home. We now have 2 kids under the age of 2 and the thought of closing HARDY is disasterous. PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE HARDY	10/27/2016 8:54 PM
159	Add on to Upham	10/27/2016 8:39 PM
160	I think improving our schools to uphold high educational standards should be the priority not to cut costs. I think residents move to Wellesley for the school system, because it's definitely not known for its affordability.... So If that's why people move here, then we need to place higher value on our public school education system.	10/27/2016 8:22 PM
161	There needs to be a school in the upham area. It would not be acceptable for elementary kids to cross rt 9 to go to school. Especially when cars are aggressive and don't always stop at red lights.	10/27/2016 7:55 PM
162	Inasmuch as there is not an "Other" check-box for question 16, please provide in the survey results that this respondent considers 3.5 classrooms to be the optional size for an elementary school to provide for population bubbles and/or future needs not yet conceptualized.	10/27/2016 7:45 PM
163	The Town spends taxpayer monies foolishly and doesn't care. The Town agreed to hire a professional Town Manager as long as that person did whatever certain people wanted so the taxpayers said NO. The taxpayers are still paying for the NEW High School because they made a farce out of the old one by building additions at different levels and not doing regular maintenance as needed. Our taxes are already too high, so unless the Town allows the elderly taxpaying citizens to be exempt from any overrides or debt exclusions, the answer to any additional funds for schools is NO.	10/27/2016 7:33 PM
164	Nothing replaces the neighborhood elementary experience. I walk my children to school every day. I have very close friends in other school districts, and Hardy is without a doubt the most tightly knit elementary community. Young children learn better in smaller schools. Families with young children buy homes in this town for the neighborhood elementary schools. If big, new schools are so important, then why does Hardy test so well?	10/27/2016 6:27 PM
165	Our schools are very run down. Most people move to Wellesley for the great school system. The elementary schools do not look like they are in a nice town. Taking my kids to soccer at Sprague I see how beautiful new schools can be. (We go to Schofield). I think the children deserve modern, up to date schools. Tearing down old schools doesn't necessarily mean the new school can't look beautiful and have character. The high school and Sprague are new schools and are architecturally beautiful.	10/27/2016 5:59 PM
166	My children went to the Upham school. The facilities was never particularly attractive when my children went to school but the quality of education was good. I believe that the quality of education has gone down and I am not sure the facility has much to do with that. Operating efficiency should improve when the schools are consolidated Why raise taxes for this project?	10/27/2016 5:58 PM
167	I think that closing Upham would increase the students required to cross Route 9 leading to safety issues and traffic congestion. There needs to be more than one school north of Route 9 or a large increase in free busing to keep children safe.	10/27/2016 5:18 PM
168	Your tax question asks about cost estimates to rebuild two of the three HHU schools but does not give an estimate for demolition of 2 of the 3 and the cost of building a new school. Your North 40 school site does not ask about traffic implications for the Weston Road/Central Ave intersection. I learned at a meeting about the proposed school site at the North 40 that this intersection is already terribly overburdened. Even building a bridge over the train tracks will not alleviate this problem and no cost has been given for this bridge.	10/27/2016 5:15 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

169	There was insufficient information in this survey to comfortably answer the question of whether I would support building on the North 40. If a school was built on the North 40, would this mean Hardy or Hunnewell would close? Are there other implications?	10/27/2016 5:05 PM
170	This survey was inherently biased by lacking "other" options for its multiple choice questions. For example, my primary concern with closing a school (per the corresponding question) is the possibility of needing a third school again when the sinusoidal function modeling school enrollment returns to a peak again.	10/27/2016 4:36 PM
171	It was difficult to make choices for some responses. The choices seemed narrow and not addressing the complexity of the situation.	10/27/2016 4:16 PM
172	Question 16 had no place for comments so i put it in question 15's comment space.	10/27/2016 3:15 PM
173	No	10/27/2016 2:58 PM
174	Wellesley needs to adopt some fiduciary responsibility and stop assuming that everyone who lives in this town is rich and will spend whatever it takes to have "state of the art" schools. Seems like there is no end to what the town and some of it's residents want to spend. In addition, traffic in the town is becoming completely unacceptable; it's just about impossible to go anywhere between 2:30 and 6pm. Adding more congestion by building a school on the North 40 is completely irresponsible.	10/27/2016 2:57 PM
175	Very concerned about the impact of more traffic along Weston Road. This is already a parking lot in the morning and after school. Also concerned about substantial tax burden. Would force more seniors to leave town because they can't afford to live here anymore. I want good, safe schools, but don't necessarily want the 'Cadillac' approach.	10/27/2016 2:09 PM
176	I support the renovations needed in all 3 schools. It is important for the town to maintain neighborhood schools. It is what helps make Wellesley a desirable place to raise a family. I do not support building any schools on the north 40. Traffic is pretty bad as it is on that portion of Weston Rd. Not to mention it is the last green space in Wellesley. Having lived in Wellesley my whole life some changes are not always for the better. I do not want this town to become a Newton.	10/27/2016 1:51 PM
177	Yes. Traffic is an issue at schools not because too many children attend a particular school or because the schools are large, but because families do not prioritize walking and do not take the time and effort to walk. If the argument against making 2 of the 3 schools larger is due to traffic concerns, then I think that is largely a bogus concern. Traffic concerns will always be a problem regardless of the school rebuild/renovate situation. Unless efforts are taken to provide incentives to walk (or bus), people will default to driving.	10/27/2016 1:07 PM
178	Traffic around Hardy is atrocious, and makes driving to the commuter rail a problem. There is generally a fifteen minute backup on Weston Road. I have no knowledge of traffic problems near Upham (seems unlikely) or hunnewell (seems likely).	10/27/2016 12:34 PM
179	I live in the Woodlands. Building a school in the North 40 would add to the already congested Weston Rd traffic. This would be an awful plan. This neighborhood is filled with school age children. More families are moving in. It would be tragic if you got rid of Hardy school.	10/27/2016 11:44 AM
180	#6. You should not assume that if someone does not have/has/will have a child in the schools that they are not familiar with issues. Wording of question does not allow one to express familiarity. #10 and 11. There was no answer that said: "Needs more information to give an opinion." Those in town who do not have cable TV or choose not to read the Townsman have had no way to learn about all this. I watched a school committee meeting recently on TV and the committee only used initials for things. I could not figure out what HHU even stood for because they never said what it stood for. Also, the chairman kept saying "You guys" which did not help me figure out who she even was addressing. In general. There needs to be a way to get facts/numbers/needs out to residents. Also, I think schools should be maintained on a regular basis, instead of allowing them to deteriorate until the only way to salvage them is major renovations/tear down.	10/27/2016 11:34 AM
181	The demographic questions may not be precise. I bought my first Wellesley house before children. I bought my current Wellesley house when children were out of college. Therefore, I have no children in Wellesley schools. It may have been good to ask the number of years a respondent has been a resident.	10/27/2016 11:07 AM
182	We moved to the Fiske area 48 years ago when neighborhood schools were the norm. Things have changed. My grandson was bused to kindergarten in his town and continues to be bused every day. It does not seem to be an issue at all. Times have changed and the need for modern facilities is paramount. As a former teacher, I know how important it is to have a variety of educational spaces to accommodate the many programs and needs of the student body. Most mornings, I watch the kids walk along Madison Rd. to Fiske. There are very few walkers. Most children are driven, and 2-3 school buses come rumbling down the street every morning. Most of the walkers are with their parents as the cars and buses drive much too fast and walking to school doesn't always seem to be a very safe outing for young children.	10/27/2016 10:54 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

183	I believe each of the HHU schools has their own set of issues, but I also think that they are still viable entities and can be rebuilt or modified to meet the needs of our children going forward. I will not support any tax override that requires consolidation into two schools. Wellesley schools are top rated and I believe this is a direct result of the existing neighborhood school model that is in place.	10/27/2016 10:35 AM
184	I believe that 2 section schools are too small for many reasons: large class sizes, closed classes, decreased teacher attention, smaller district lines that allow either classes to be large or too small depending on grade, need 3 sections to be able to socially mix up the grades as they progress through the school	10/27/2016 10:12 AM
185	Please leave all three schools open. In terms of Hunnewell, I place very little value on the building itself. However, the size, neighborhood community, proximity via walking on the Brook Path makes our elementary experience incredibly enriching. We are 100% walkers and love our school!	10/27/2016 8:07 AM
186	I support keeping and improving the existing three schools and will vote against any plan that does not include keeping all three schools.	10/27/2016 12:21 AM
187	We would love to replace the small neighborhood school with a much larger consolidated elementary school. We have four kids in the system. The girls have especially had problems with the very limited social scene (same kids each year, including a few bullies) and the close involvement of stay-at-home parents within walking distance. We also feel that the education has also been limited by small class sizes, which make it hard to offer opportunities for students to excel beyond the pack. In contrast, our older kids absolutely love WMS and WHS because these issues were solved by going to larger schools drawing from the whole town. Large modern buildings with better educational facilities, gym, labs, etc. and smooth traffic flow for drop-off/pickup would be fantastic to see at the elementary level, by consolidating the small schools. This would also save money for the district.	10/26/2016 11:30 PM
188	It is egregious that this town does not find sidewalks essential. I live in the Upham neighborhood and there are no sidewalks on Suffolk road. My kid walks to school and has done so independently for years. It is shameful to scheme to take this away from kids. It's a great way to foster independence and avoid sitting like a zombie in the backseat while being driven to school. My kid gets fresh air no matter what time of year and it's such a wonderful experience walking through the Upham woods. We have truly had a magical elementary experience because of it. The new school you are proposing will destroy this gem of a neighborhood with the colossal edifice that is proposed.	10/26/2016 10:07 PM
189	We need to take into account the best interests of the students who will be attending the updated schools. Smaller schools and neighborhood schools are better for students. If we do not make education a priority here in Wellesley, we will not continue to attract young families here. Please do the right thing: either leave the schools as they are, or update them, but three schools should remain. In the past Wellesley has closed schools and then has had to reopen them as enrollments have again increased. Let's not be short-sighted. Keep all three schools open. And don't overwhelm students by having large numbers in any school. This is incredibly important to each child's success in their learning.	10/26/2016 9:35 PM
190	We should not eliminate any of the three schools. Wellesley is known for having neighborhood schools and it is important we keep that as a strong belief as we continue to evolve our elementary schools.	10/26/2016 8:44 PM
191	Continuing with the solution to restore or build 2 additional schools plus renovate Hunnewell may appease some but it leads to two small schools that will land us in the same situation we are in today....a science experiment for classes when one grade is considered "not large enough" for two sections and hence closed to anyone else moving in to the neighborhood. Three sections per grade is as large as I would go. This would allow for teachers to plan classes with student movement accordingly...placing the right students together to create the best possible learning scenario and environment for everyone in the classroom. With the lines of student population being equal on the north and south sides of Rt9 the solution is to build a new school on the Upham lot. Doing anything else will result in a greater number of students having to cross RT9, which we know is terrible at any time of day. Having a new Upham will allow students currently located in the section of town between Glen and Cliff to not have to deal with Washington Street and Rt9 traffic and are at least 1.5+ miles away from the school and are not in a walkable situation. The distance to Upham is similar the difference is that children would stay on one side of Rt9 rather than having to cross it. Hardy is in a very difficult traffic route to navigate at any time of the day. Additional traffic guards, stoplights won't help with that. Upham will have increased traffic but the amount of that would not be as substantial given that there are two points of entry into the school; this distributes the amount of traffic flow in the neighborhood. If Hardy wants to save their school and the town agrees to pick up some of the cost, the parents of that area should be required to pay a fee as long as their child attends that school or have higher taxes to subsidize the rest of the cost. If it is that important to save the school, they should be prepared to put in their fair share. Unfortunately the "paying a fee" solution is more like that of a private school but it is what it is. If the option to go forward with building on the north 40, buses are a MUST for all those who attend....free buses at that. Traffic is bad enough as it is on Weston and 135.	10/26/2016 8:43 PM
192	I think the ability of our school children to walk or bike to school is very important, but I have no idea how to answer the questions you have asked about ideal distance. Both of those issues are decisions that parents make based on knowledge of their children and their neighborhoods. My lack of specifics does not indicate that I don't think they are important issues.	10/26/2016 6:26 PM
193	We moved here for the neighborhood schools. Do what you need to revamp the schools but don't close any schools	10/26/2016 5:10 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

194	When the HHU plan was first presented to the Hardy community there were a lot of unanswered questions. Happy to see that the original plan has been challenged and that the people involved in the process have started to look at it differently. Thank you to ALL the members of our community who volunteer their time to make sure that the final recommendation will be the BEST decision for the education of the children in Wellesley. Bigger is not always better.	10/26/2016 7:21 AM
195	On the questions related to traffic, I feel that while it is a point to consider it is not a major point to be considered for closing a school. Any decision taken should not further aggravate traffic issues which consolidation to two larger schools will do. Other options like addressing the bus costs / bus routes may help alleviate any perceived existing traffic issues.	10/25/2016 10:46 PM
196	School size: A fundamental issue with HHU is Elementary school size. I was on the PAC and interviewed tons of residents about school size. Many residents who sent and are sending their children to WPS's want and will advocate for small schools with only 3 sections per grade. They do not want to go any larger than our largest current school which is 3 sections per grade. This has been proven multiple times in Wellesley's history with Bates and Sprague. There are so many residents who answer the question "Why did you move to Wellesley?" with the same answer, "for the small neighborhood schools." They agree that larger than 3 sections per grade is too big and that's why they didn't move to other surrounding towns. Grandparents are adamant about the schools staying to 3 sections per grade as they are excited about their grandchildren being raised here...in the small neighborhood schools they afforded their own children. This is why the children continue to move back. If people didn't care, they would live in any of the lovely surrounding towns. This number of 300-400 students and 3 sections per grade was not established here by chance. Any and all research into the optimal size of elementary schools indicates these exact numbers. The only professional person who has indicated that larger is Ok is Dr. Lussier and I'm afraid his opinion on the subject is biased. Many other professionals, teachers, researchers, etc. all say 300-400 students. Enrollment will go back up: It's science; enrollment acts on a sine curve. While we might be approaching the bottom, it WILL go back up. Consolidating rather than renovating our current schools is a very shortsighted move and will only force us to expand a few number of schools in the future. With 6 schools I can see the elementary population increase forcing us to add to those schools in the future b/c the 7th school has been used for something else. Once it's gone...it won't come back. Without the actual building available, how can we possibly accommodate any increase in elementary population?	10/25/2016 9:48 PM
197	I feel the questions and the options to reply left no middle ground. To answer the dollar amount questions are not possible with lack of information etc. I do feel that each of these schools should be kept as schools in their own right. Since we moved to Wellesley in 1957 we have first seen Sprague closed as an elementary school and then in succession Kingsbury, Phillips and Brown. In each case ill advised.	10/25/2016 5:40 PM
198	I was raised in this town and attended 3 different elementary schools. I went to Schofield, then attended Perrin because of a move and after a few years was redistricted and ended up at Bates. I was able to play with the neighborhood children and walk to all three schools safely. My children attended Sprague and are now at the WMS. They had to walk almost a mile to Sprague. Quite a distance, if you are 5 years old. I attended WMS (Wellesley Junior High) and graduated from the WHS. Free busing was given to kids who lived over 1.5 miles from the WMS and WHS. Unfortunately, I have seen the closing of many of the elementary schools in this town. This is a list of the schools that have been closed, though some were before my time: Kingsbury School, Brown School, Warren School, Perrin School and the Phillips School. I am sad to see that the town of Wellesley does not learn from past mistakes concerning school closings. Had Wellesley not sold off school properties, we would have had the land to build new schools and our much needed athletic facilities. Wellesley might have been able to save money from the purchase of the North 40 and St. Jame's properties. Think about the possibilities! How about a town pool? The town could have added one directly behind the WMS at the Kingsbury School site. The swim team could have walked to practices or the town residences could have used the WHS to park and walk over to the swim center in the summers. The town could have had an ice rink or built a new school at the Brown, Phillips or Perrin sites. Sadly, I see condos, a park and a town facility. The Warren School is a wonderful facility! Unfortunately, I do find it very upsetting to see our young children attending classes in trailers and rundown schools while the town employees enjoy a beautifully renovated building with air conditioning. Why doesn't the town give the Warren School back to the kids and put the town offices from the Warren building in the old schools during renovation? Please know this is actually a suggestion and not a sarcastic comment. Over the years, Wellesley has allowed a massive amount of condo's, townhouse and apartments to be added to the town landscape while closing schools. The pursuit of 40B apartments has helped to exasperate this issue. 40B is a tool to help keep our taxes down, but has become counterintuitive. We have to tear down schools and make bigger ones to accommodate the increase in population. The elementary schools are over crowded, as well as the WMS and soon the WHS. We have congestion in our schools. We are seeing closures of class grades at some schools. We have seen a lack of investment in proper renovation/rebuilding of our outdated schools. This will all lead to higher taxes which negates to 40B tax savings. I think it is time for the town to look at the mistakes of the past. Please don't close another school to add to the congestion of our streets and the permeant removal of another school building. We may not be able to predict the future but we sure as heck can learn from our past mistakes!	10/25/2016 12:58 PM
199	As an Upham parent not closely following the debate, my two main concerns are: Upham is way too small and this is impacting our children's education and social growth Crossing route 9 is extremely dangerous and I cannot support any plan that means elementary students would have to cross route 9 unless major safety enhancements are enacted.	10/25/2016 11:49 AM

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200	I believe the most important factor is to provide safe and educationally advanced structure(s) for 3-4 classrooms per grade (with learning centers, library, gym and cafeteria) at each Wellesley elementary school. All other schools (Bates, Sprague, Fiske, Schofield) meet those criteria -- the same should be true for Hardy, Hunnewell & Upham. While I remain uncertain whether a new, larger structure should be built behind Hardy or Upham, any change will have an unsettling impact on our school community and neighborhoods. I hope the School Committee and Board of Selectman will make their case clearly re: the economics of any proposed project and also explain the educational value (and social diversity) of having at least 3 classrooms per grade.	10/25/2016 10:20 AM
201	The options that were presented at the town hall by the school committee showed that the lowest cost would be to renovate all the existing schools rather than tear down and build one new school and renovate a second. The argument they offered was that it would last 50 years or 75 years. I doubt that they will be able to predict enrollment for that long considering how many school buildings have been made into apartments or recreational centers and then new schools constructed. I think that it would be more practical to maintain all the schools and to intelligently renovate them to improve deficiencies. It would maintain the neighborhood schools, allow children to walk to more schools and keep sizes smaller. I think that these are more important considerations than the reasons offered to tear down one of the schools and rebuild one. I think all this talk about 50 or 75 years is nonsense. Especially if renovating all the schools is also the most fiscally sound choice.	10/25/2016 7:41 AM
202	The most important issue for me is that the Hardy School site remains a walking destination for the neighborhood, either as an elementary school, or as some other public building. I think it would be terrible for it to become an administration building, or some use like that. The school and playground act as an anchor for a part of town that includes the Fells shops area, Fells Library, and Morses Pond as walking destinations for many residents.	10/25/2016 12:16 AM
203	#14 - Walkability is great but on a town wide basis, a 1-2%+/- change is acceptable in the scheme of the overall considerations. #16 - While I think 3 classes per grade is ideal, I'll be disappointed if the survey designer use these brackets to suggest respondents would oppose 4 in a few and total enrollment slightly over 400. #18 & 19 - These questions do not address age and whether the child is accompanied. A kindergartner isn't going to ride a bike 2 miles while and older elementary schooler is more than capable. Same can be said for walking and age/grade. #25 - Hunnewell tree is wonderful and I'd hate to see it go as a result of construction. Any consideration of activity that could impact the tree, should consider where the tree is in its life cycle. If the tree is in decline and might be gone in 5 years anyway, removal should be kept on the table.	10/24/2016 11:36 PM
204	Let's get real ...firstly it's common sence to not keep spending money renovating school buildings that do not meet ECO friendly ( environmentally /cost effective heating standards etc Traffic volumes in town have increased and will continue to .. Weston road should have crossover bridges at Hardy school and fells Rd (if it is to remain )to ensure traffic flows can remain consistent .. traffic from Bates should be park/walk your child down to school not drop drive as is. Each school can have trees removed .. replanted Take the materials of each historic building in each school add it to a new one wherever that may be honor the old but move on to the new ..	10/24/2016 10:23 PM
205	Building a new school on the north forty is the best option.. Keeps a school in the hardy district, improves traffic, allows for " old hardy" to have other uses...fields ect, cheaper to build a new modern school, keeps Upham and Hunnewell small. Renovation of Upham and Hunnewell would be easier than a Reno of Hardy. Closing a school will result in the need for expansion in less than 10 years .. When the stats for future admissions prove wrong.	10/24/2016 8:05 PM
206	The major reason people move too Wellesley(including myself) is the elementary schools. Without this, people will have no incentive to come here. House values will drop and schools will start to lose students. It is unacceptable to expect another 200 elementary students to have to cross route 9 and add to the congestion. They are not at an age to walk to school. People that have kids know the bus is not going to work out well. This is the difference of Wellesley and the nearby common cities of Weston, Wayland, Dover, Sudbury etc.	10/24/2016 7:01 PM
207	I would prefer to keep the historic parts of H and H but could be persuaded otherwise if it made sense to demolish. I would really need to see the different plan options for U to determine about blasting. A school in the middld of the Upham neighborhood should fit into the neighborhood and enhance the neighborhood. It should not loom up behind any of the houses. Blasting may negatively impact the neighbors on that side of the school.	10/24/2016 5:20 PM
208	My children would have gone to a school on my block. It closed before they were of school age. They walked to their school about a mile away. That closed. They were then bused to fiske. I actually preferred the bus.	10/24/2016 4:14 PM
209	Please please please keep small neighborhood schools! They create a nurturing school environment which is small and neighborly. I really believe it takes a village and you lose that quickly with a large school. This is especially important during the elementary years. We have all looked out for each other's children.	10/24/2016 4:11 PM
210	My concerns for the North 40 are as follows: 1) Weston Road is heavily traveled and, in that stretch, people tend to speed. It is a main cut-through road for people getting off Route 9 to get to Natick, etc. and is backed up at commuter hour. 2) Most children will have to cross Weston Road to get there (except the Generals neighborhood) 3) As the Generals district transitions, will it be affordable for first-time homebuyers with kids? 4) Would you need a traffic light on Weston Road to regulate traffic coming in and out of the site? 5) Add'l delays on Weston Road could push drivers into the neighborhood side roads to get to Rte. 9 Maybe this could be solved with footbridges above Weston Road.	10/24/2016 3:40 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

211	The North 40 makes so much sense for a new larger school that would not interfere with Hardy and Upham during construction. Building one school would also allow for something better than rebuilding or replacing two while costing less in ongoing operations. And, if someone could figure out how to reasonably get kids from the south side of town to that North 40 school, building it for three would be even better.	10/24/2016 3:21 PM
212	It is imperative that you retain all of the neighborhood schools. A huge Upham will be a nightmare for the children and DESTROY the neighborhood feel of the schools in Wellesley. I would NEVER have moved here if that was the layout of the schools. We moved here for the NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS!!!!!!!	10/24/2016 2:38 PM
213	I would support rebuilding Hardy on the North 40 lot. It may improve the Weston Rd traffic situation. I would have significant reservations about building a town-wide elementary school in that space, though, since the research that I have seen supports an elementary school capacity closer to 300-400 students.	10/24/2016 2:18 PM
214	I have children past, present, and future in the elementary schools; when it is all said in done, I will have had at least one child in the elementary schools from 2005 to 2026. This is a critically important issue to me that must be viewed with the long-term interests of the town in mind. It affects our kids futures, our taxes, our home values, our neighborhoods and our identity as a community; all of these are at or near the top of what is important in my life. When I first saw the Hunnewell "gym" (auditorium? cafeteria?) in 2005, I was appalled and to think it would remain that way until 2026 is unbelievable, but looking more possible by the day. We have to act, act decisively, and be thoughtful when doing so.	10/24/2016 2:07 PM
215	We need a plan that prioritizes both quality education and cost effectiveness and efficiency. Class sizes need to be kept within limits but below an appropriate level, the quality return does not justify the added cost. And allowing school size to drop to the point where there is only one class per grade is not only cost ineffective but introduces class assignment inflexibility with unintended negative consequences.	10/24/2016 12:53 PM
216	The most important part of this plan is to maintain all three schools. I would like to see the historical parts of the schools and the Hunnewell tree maintained, but if that comes in the way of the three school plan, than I would support their removal. Additionally, I would like to see the new/renovated schools conform to modern educational standards, but I think it is more important to have the three schools than it is to make them modern. These kids needs an environment where they feel save, supported, connected to the community, have great teachers, and implement the best educational philosophies more than they need a modern building.	10/24/2016 12:09 PM
217	RE: walking to elementary school - it is not as much an issue of distance as to safety (two much traffic) at the elementary level. We have hard winters and walking can be dangerous. I grew up in Weston and everyone was on a bus.....a good experience. My own 3 children always took bus to Fiske....another learning experience.	10/24/2016 12:05 PM
218	A huge factor for us buying a house in Wellesley (and not Newton or Needham or Weston) was because of the neighborhood school system. We feel so lucky to have our children walk to school and to have so many of their friends in a mile-radius. Our friends from other towns are always amazed at how wonderful our neighborhood is for that reason. While our district itself (Bates) would not change, I am concerned that so many other Wellesley families would lose that amazing neighborhood feel should they have to send their children to a school 2 miles away from their house! Wellesley is an affluent town that prizes itself on education. A one-time "large" tax to renovate the schools would be so much better than a smaller tax to consolidate and lose the town character.	10/24/2016 11:40 AM
219	I don't feel that enough thought has gone into traffic considerations. The Hunnewell area already has considerable traffic due to the proximity of the library and route 16 and the difficulties entering Washington Street (no left turn.) I think new roads or road configurations would be necessary to accommodate such a large school and the increase in traffic. Also, a 500 plus school in the Upham area would mean a huge increase in traffic up those hills and could be very treacherous in the winter. Those windy roads were not meant for a high volume of traffic. There would need to be many more buses and routes to bring children from a larger catchment area and much would have to be done to entice families to use the buses, such as a free service. If Hardy closes, the two schools on the north side of Rte. 9 - Bates and Upham, are very close in distance, walking distance in fact. I can envision major traffic snarl-ups as cars and buses converges on the two schools as 1,000 students try to get into a small area of town.	10/24/2016 11:39 AM
220	I grew up in Wellesley and my siblings and I attended both Upham and Bates elementary schools (due to redistricting and not due to a family move). I have since had 2 daughters go through Bates elementary who are now in Middle School and High School. So while I don't have any younger children going through the elementary system, I am very protective of the legacy of the neighborhood school plan. The family and kid friendships that develop via the neighborhood school format can quite literally make a town great. There is an intangible/priceless value to the benefits of the neighborhood school system. I moved back to this town because of the school systems and because I had developed lifetime friendships with my fellow classmates, many of whom I walked to school with. Many, many of Wellesley public school alumnus have done the same. I am not sure that they will keep moving back to town if the neighborhood schools are closed. You start bussing kids across town, it will diminish greatly the sense of community that families feel with one another when they move to town. It will feel more like a city and less like a town, with buses everywhere and heightened traffic. I also feel like kids' safety in and around the schools (in school parking lots which often second as playground areas, and crosswalks) will be greatly diminished by having so many more buses and cars on the road trying to get kids across town from where they live.	10/24/2016 11:22 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

221	We live in the Upham area and cannot imagine there not being a another school (besides Bates) on our side on Route 9, for safety concerns of kids getting to school and overall traffic flow, etc. Also, seems imperative to me to maintain a school in the Upham area - whether a larger consolidated school or a renovation of the existing- to serve the enormous land area that is currently served by Upham. Our first choice would be a renovation of Upham to start the process which would add classroom space, etc, and then a Redistricting to make the current (largely illogical) school districting borders make more sense (eg, make the area to the east of Cliff that is currently Sprague shift to Upham, etc)	10/24/2016 10:54 AM
222	A major draw of Wellesley has long been the excellence of its schools. The primary grades attract families who might consider putting their children in private schools for high school, but value the neighborhood structure of primary grade schools we offer. Since the early 80's, Wellesley has closed many elementary schools, a shortsighted move that didn't allow for the elasticity of school-age children in years to come. With small neighborhood schools, children go to school with kids they play with and form friendships that last a lifetime. Being able to walk your children to school fosters stronger ties among families who meet along the way. This is not nostalgia for "the way life used to be" but a forward thinking vision of Wellesley as a close knit, environmentally responsible community that puts children and families first. Further, and most importantly, research backs the key importance of small classrooms and smaller schools. Building a "super school" is not in the interest of our children's education. It is not in the interest of a strong Wellesley community. Blowing up the solid cliff behind the Upham School to build a huge new building would also greatly diminish this neighborhood, wiping out one of the few large open spaces in town, and decreasing property values at the same time. I feel strongly that the thinking behind the HHU plan to close one school and more than double the size of Upham is ill-conceived, a bad choice for our children, and destructive to the three school communities effected.	10/24/2016 10:31 AM
223	Why build on the North 40 when Hardy, Hunnewell and Upham have sufficient space? Children at Hardy love to walk to school - we live at the far reaches (1.25 miles away) and our kids enjoy walking with their friends. Smaller schools = better learning. More attention from teachers and administrators, more involvement from parents. Wellesley has historically taken pride in being a neighborhood school community for good reason. Let's not lose that in focusing only on cutting costs. The future of our children's education is at stake.	10/24/2016 10:30 AM
224	I don't really know enough about the specifics of the proposals for each building and I don't have a preference as to which building should be closed. However, the enrollment projections since 2006 have been clear that we would get to time when there were only enough students to support 2 schools and I feel strongly that we need to acknowledge that fact and save the operating costs of running an extra school.	10/24/2016 10:19 AM
225	I would like to see more questions on what the educational value for the kids is in the various options. Change is always hard but what makes the most sense for teaching kids? Felt like a number of my options in the survey were limited and weighted more heavily in a particular direction rather than open. Thanks for asking for input, however.	10/24/2016 8:58 AM
226	My children attend Hardy but we live in the Bates district. My primary concern with consolidation is the larger schools and the elimination of the small community environment present at each elementary school in Wellesley.	10/24/2016 8:32 AM
227	With two children in or having gone through the elementary schools I think that a small neighborhood school is priceless. It provides a nurturing environment for the students and encourages a tight knit group of parents who look out for each other's children and know each other and the children.	10/23/2016 11:05 PM
228	Currently, the distance to Fiske, for example, that is considered walkable is inappropriate for children of that age. In our case, at least, it would involve walking 98% of the way on a busy road with no sidewalks. The same conditions make biking too dangerous. So the notion of walkable elementary schools has not been our experience. That being said, the carlines that form at all of the schools can at times be just as dangerous. I would whole heartedly support programs to significantly increase bus ridership.	10/23/2016 10:11 PM
229	I support a 300-400 (3 section school), but would also support 200-300 schools as well (it was not a multiple option question). I would be willing to pay more in taxes to accommodate higher operating costs to keep all small neighborhood schools open.	10/23/2016 10:08 PM
230	The most important to me is keeping 7 neighborhood schools. We walk to school every day. It is my favorite time of day, I really don't want to drive daily to school.	10/23/2016 8:43 PM
231	I wonder whether this survey is biased in the way the questions are set up. I wonder if the people writing the survey were hoping to get certain answers, and so some of the questions are meant to elicit certain responses. I have not seen any questions related to the renovation of the existing schools. Everything seems to be focused on creating two mega schools that are completely out of character to the Wellesley elementary educational process.	10/23/2016 8:16 PM
232	It is my first time hear about this plan, it will be helpful to have some additional information about the master plan. For example, the location of the three schools, current enrollment of the schools, which options are considered, what's prons and cons of each options, cost of each options, what's impact of other school district?	10/23/2016 8:01 PM
233	no, need for clarification... I think your survey was well thought out and clear. But perhaps we could have added even more questions regarding the bigger picture... see below	10/23/2016 6:46 PM

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234	need to build two new schools one at Hunnewell and one at Upham Close hardy makes the mostb sense of putting the elementasry districts back to more what they were before Sprague was built in 2002 This plan makes the most sense geographically enrollment needs for the next ten years do not project a need for more than two need 18m to 21 classroom s schools at Hunewell and Upham. Make the decision These schools are a mess and need to be replaced . The kids will be fine they are resilent . It is the parents that cannot deal with the change.	10/23/2016 6:22 PM
235	School building and operating costs (regardless of whether or not these costs are included in the School Budget) are too high and resultant taxes threaten ability of seniors to reside in Wellesley.	10/23/2016 5:39 PM
236	Please try every effort to preserve all of 3 neighborhood elementary schools!	10/23/2016 2:21 PM
237	Question about willingness to pay more in taxes is a little out of context because the cost per school may decrease if all projects together earn discounts on work and materials. Question about optimal number of classrooms- I chose lower but would have preferred a choice between the first 2 options. I think it is important to analyze each school in the same way. I support keeping all schools. But it seems to me that Hardy which has the most space is the only school seriously on the plate for closure. Off the cuff, I would think merging Bates and Upham (expand Bates, tear down Upham and build playing fields on the site) could possibly maintain neighborhood schools more than closing Hardy, would have little effect on traffic, and could address the small class sizes that are more prevalent at Upham than at Hardy. I think the latest designs for Hardy are better but still don't appear optimal.	10/23/2016 11:55 AM
238	I would like to highlight the educational benefits of saving all three schools, in order to maintain a smaller population of students at each school, and limited number of classes for each grade. Please see the following research-based informational sources: Class Sizes: <a href="http://www.aps.edu/re/documents/2005-2006-publications/ES_School_Size.pdf">http://www.aps.edu/re/documents/2005-2006-publications/ES_School_Size.pdf</a> AND <a href="http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/class-size/">http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/class-size/</a> Walkability: <a href="http://activelivingresearch.org/walkable-distance-elementary-school-children-and-impacts-individualized-objective-environment-active">http://activelivingresearch.org/walkable-distance-elementary-school-children-and-impacts-individualized-objective-environment-active</a>	10/23/2016 10:45 AM
239	I suport renovating all thre schools, to suport neighborhood concept.	10/22/2016 11:59 PM
240	Neighborhood schools are the heart of Wellesley. They should be preserved. It contributes to a feeling of Wellesley being a town, not a city.	10/22/2016 8:10 PM
241	I believe the schools need renovation if they are not safe or the teachers feel the children can not get a great education there. As a Hunnewell parent, I would HATE to lose our school. I do feel better parking and/or pick-up drop-off system should be in place. Our students are probably 95% walkers meaning working parents have to drive and bad weather forces us to drive. This makes traffic bad.	10/22/2016 6:55 PM
242	I am emphatically not in favor of two, larger schools. I have seen firsthand the importance of neighborhood schools in creating a strong and warm community for students and their parents, where teachers know every child and every family. We moved here when our child was a toddler specifically for the quality of the school system and immediately were told by our neighbors about the high quality of the Hardy school in particular--a reputation that remains solid. Two to three classes per grade level has worked well for our school. I appreciate Hardy's historic character but know well its shortcomings. I support either a new Hardy further back on the site with a new traffic plan, or one on the North 40. Should the North 40 be used for a new Hardy, I would support the Hardy site being used for parkland. Weston Road must be improved for walker and bike safety; if not, and the town should consider a large truck ban on Weston Road.	10/22/2016 5:33 PM
243	Contrary to many I believe more classes in each grade is better. Many years my daughter had only a few girls in her grade. Not a great situation.	10/22/2016 4:30 PM
244	As a senior citizen I am appalled that more maintenance was not done on the current schools rather than waiting until the point that we have come to. We saw this same situation at the Middle School as well as the High School. It is pretty clear that the town wants to tax people out of the town and continue down this path Deep pockets don't exist for everyone in this town Those that believe all should be done usually are the ones who leave the town and move out of state or elsewhere, thus not being penalized with increased taxes/	10/22/2016 3:41 PM
245	We don't need big schools, rather quality small schools. The Middle school in Wellesley is an example of this problem. We parents would be more involved in small environments.	10/22/2016 12:29 PM
246	The quality of the teachers and curriculum is far more important than an expensive state of the art building. Try not to out-do our neighbors.	10/22/2016 11:43 AM
247	as stated above- adding more buses will enable all students who wish to use to have the opportunity and this will significantly reduce traffic, be better for environment by reducing all the cars driving kids back and forth and idling in traffic circle, safer for students and reduce student tardiness. Hardy seems to need the most work/ renovation- feel less strongly regarding hunnewell and upham which both appear to be well maintained apart from lack air conditioning	10/22/2016 9:21 AM
248	Pieces of the historic buildings could be selected based on significance and preserved in a display case in the entrance to the new building thus maintaining the connection between history and the present	10/22/2016 8:16 AM

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249	I am not a parent but I recently went thru the Wellesley school system myself and I would be heartbroken to find out that Wellesley had voted to find that Wellesley had decided to consolidate its neighborhood schools into one or even two larger ones that students would have to be driven or bused to, when they previously could have walked to their neighborhood school	10/22/2016 7:49 AM
250	you should define "significant" loss of forest on the North 40. I don't want to lose forest and nature areas, but I think the town should consolidate the schools. It is very expensive to run so many tiny elementary schools in terms of admin and building support. Also, I felt that by 4th grade, the school environment began to get too small for my boys. The two classes literally just reshuffled every year and they were really eager to get into a larger environment by 5th grade.	10/22/2016 7:14 AM
251	I had two children who attended Bates Elementary School. I answered the question (6?) with that I currently have a child at another grade level. That answer did not make it clear that my kids attended a Wellesley Elementary school.	10/22/2016 6:45 AM
252	Unfortunately, we live in one of the worst served neighborhoods for a neighborhood school system. Not one of the schools in the system are walkable for an elementary school child from our home.	10/21/2016 10:53 PM
253	NO	10/21/2016 10:35 PM
254	I think building a replacement neighborhood school in the North 49 parcel could be an option, but not time efficient. I really think Wellesley should just renovate these buildings to bring them up to date. I personally think the buildings are not that bad. Buildings don't make schools, the community does. I also think the timing is horrible for our town. We have had 10 years of capital expenses. Wellesley neighborhoods are more part of the town's tradition. I don't want major changes. If the town needs another elementary school for capacity, take back the town rec building and move those offices to another place, like at the new sports center on Rt 9.	10/21/2016 10:28 PM
255	Small, historic, and neighborhood all matter.	10/21/2016 9:35 PM
256	With these plans you will further undermine the town of Wellesley character which has worked well for many years. "Bigger is not better" and the record of the Wellesley School Administration and Committee is and has been poor at best. Just look at the schools that have been closed, the top heavy administration and the lack of basics that are being ignored.	10/21/2016 8:54 PM
257	Although difficult, it is in students' best interests to have schools that serve to meet the many needs of today's student. Schools that have innovative space, infrastructure, and teaching/ learning space that provides flexibility and accessibility is of utmost importance. Consolidating into two buildings makes a great deal of sense in terms of shared teachers and resources. It is more important that my child is educated by the best professionals in the best learning environment- like districts have no opposition to new building projects, and greet this as an opportunity for future students.	10/21/2016 7:59 PM
258	The demographic information doesn't allow one to indicate that they did have children in elementary AND they have children in other schools ... I found the question about building another school on the fields behind Upham unanswerable without knowing the design and field/tree replacement plan. Thanks for going to the effort of engaging so many citizens!!!!	10/21/2016 6:35 PM
259	Community schools are the reason we purchased a home in Wellesley. They are the threads that keep families connected.	10/21/2016 6:08 PM
260	Current traffic on Weston Road is close to intolerable. While Hardy School is a big factor, it is not the only cause. My children walked to Bates for 5 years (with crossing guard at Weston Rd). After our neighborhood was redistricted to Hardy, parents drove their children. This was a loss for the children and contributed to terrible traffic, especially in the mornings. Please pay close attention to traffic patterns as you consider the options. Thank-you for all your work on this BIG project!	10/21/2016 5:05 PM
261	Neighborhood schools suggest walkability. This should be supported by sidewalks and minimizing open enrollment.	10/21/2016 4:24 PM
262	Yes. Regarding Question 12, the answers available as to whether of minimum or maximum investment is optimal is too black and white in my mind. The physical infrastructure of our educational system should provide first and foremost a safe and comfortable environment for our students, educators and administrators. The physical infrastructure should enable the use of tools & technology that support a world class primary education. The choices should support Wellesley's core values among them, the commitment to community. Beyond the accomplishment of those three objectives, the choice is far more discretionary and should be considered carefully. Weighing the multitude of choices should be done by a committee of representatives, chosen by their respective constituents in an open, democratic process.	10/21/2016 4:20 PM
263	Please do the rational thing and consolidate to 6 schools, with Route 9 as the obvious separating boundary.	10/21/2016 4:01 PM
264	The only thing that we need to do is expand Honeywell to allow for permanent classrooms. Old historic buildings should be appreciated maintained and the children should be able to experience these beautiful small buildings with huge windows. Learning is not enhanced by a shiny building. The children should be able to walk to school and walk to their friends houses safely and easily. With the town that is already set up for schools within each district it would be a shame to change this wonderful quality of the town of Wellesley	10/21/2016 3:49 PM

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265	I know good decisions are made to maintain quality of education in our community. I believe it is time to reduce the number of schools and focus in high quality state of the art facilities by combining and reducing the number of schools as part Of maintinaing high standards. Reducing operating costs would allow for investment of those dollars,to be invested in other ways that directly impact students. So many schools,means duplication of overhead- very inefficient.	10/21/2016 3:30 PM
266	I am concerned about traffic, especially on Weston Road and I hope that whatever plan evolves will not greatly enhance traffic on Weston Road. My children are grown and they thrived in Hunnewell as a neighborhood school. They did not particularly thrive at the middle school or the high school, not that the educational opportunities weren't wonderful, but their personalities are not sufficiently aggressive for a large school environment. I would prefer to eliminate some of the supposed required educational facilities (library, art and music rooms - not that I would eliminate art or music but I would not require special facilities) - rather than forfeit a smaller social environment.	10/21/2016 2:24 PM
267	Some answers were left blank because, despite the fact that I care very much, I don't have enough knowledge to make an informed decision. The increased tax question in particular is weak in my opinion. The multiple choice options stop before the average peak tax increase; also, it's impossible to say how much increased tax would be ok without knowing what I would be buying. It's like asking, "Is \$10,000 the most you would pay for a car?" The answer is it depends on the car.	10/21/2016 12:40 PM
268	We live in Fiske but have 2 boys enrolled in Upham. We do not find the drive cumbersome. We appreciate the fine schools in town no matter where they are located. We thank the people spending their personal time to work on this plan.	10/21/2016 11:51 AM
269	The goal should be to provide our children with high quality school facilities that are designed to deliver how quality education. Schools should have at least 3 sections, but class size should be as small as possible. Classes should not be at the allowed maximum number of students. Other than possibly Hunnewell, renovation should not be considered as an option. We need new school buildings. Concerns about swing space should not drive the long term planning of the number of schools or the determination of which schools should close. At the same time, overall cost of construction does not to be taken into consideration. Concerns about walkability should not be a factor in the decision making, and certainly not the overriding factor.	10/21/2016 11:21 AM
270	We do not want big schools in the town. Small schools are ideal. I really hope you should take into consideration what people want before deciding anything. People's opinion MATTER!!! Thank you	10/21/2016 11:08 AM
271	Neighborhood schools are most important.	10/21/2016 11:00 AM
272	#23 very vague	10/21/2016 10:58 AM
273	We moved to Wellesley for its small community schools. We believe that is the strength of Wellesley as a town - we should market to future tax payers - small, new, up-today schools with excellent education. Environmentally friendly means - WALKABLE. There are neighbors on our streets who come from abroad, with little children, into this town for education precisely. The population is growing. We believe that town like Wellesley can afford three new beautiful schools. It is a long term investment for our community and future children. Thank you.	10/21/2016 10:56 AM
274	I firmly believe that Wellesley can find a way to efficiently renovate all 3 schools, and that all 3 are needed to maintain a walkable community school for as many neighborhoods as possible	10/21/2016 10:54 AM
275	I AM OPEN TO CONSIDERING HARDY AND UPHAM OPTIONS BUT WOULD HAVE TO SEE MORE DETAILS, TRAFFIC IMPACT ESPECIALLY ON WESTON ROAD AND IN THE WOODLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD-NO SIDEWALKS OR STOP SIGNS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND LOTS OF KIDS WALKING, RIDING BIKES.	10/21/2016 10:24 AM
276	The question (can't go back to check question #) regarding acceptable levels of investment as it affects the property tax has no meaningful reference to make a judgment meaningful. Question about building a school on the North 40 requiring removal of significant numbers of trees is slanted in favor of those wanting to preserve the North 40 as green space. The significant investment in that property should be used for the good of the town and NOT be reserved exclusively as green space. With 40 acres, there should be room for green space and additional uses.	10/21/2016 10:07 AM

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277	<p>I wish to address another position in that aside from thinking about the capacity and conditions of our schools, we as a community, need to think about the population projections in New England. We need to be a community that allows for greater diversity incomes to welcome a wider population of community members. The largest expected growth in demographics will be among Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders. If we want to continue to have a pipeline of students in our school system, our town should be thoughtful about providing affordable housing and access to our schools. It would benefit our community in so many ways to see an increase in diversity in our neighborhoods and our schools. If we want to talk about a productive, healthy learning environment with sustainable enrollments, providing incentives for underrepresented groups in our community to move here is something to consider. The answer to declining or shifting school enrollments should not always be to close and consolidate, but to think creatively about how to maintain the viability of the school system and community. I would also like to address my comment about providing a more flexible start time for parents. I want to walk my child to school when she will enter Hardy in 3 years. I also want to be on time to work. If Hardy can come up with a creative way to support parents walking their child to school, more children would walk to school. From a timing perspective, if I abided by the 8:15 drop off now, I would not make it home until at least 8:20-25 and would be left with minutes to arrive to my job in Waltham at 8:30 am. The other alternative to drop her at 8:15 by car still does not allow me to arrive to work on time either. Please consider extending the morning playground drop off time by 15 minutes so that parents would be able to enjoy this benefit with their child. I would consider creative ways to work with the PTO for parents who might want to volunteer to support such an initiative.</p>	10/21/2016 9:31 AM
278	<p>One of the most intriguing and unique parts about Wellesley are the elementary schools. It's consistent with our ideals and values as a small middle class family. It's also the reason we decided to purchase a home in Wellesley and the reason why the value of our home is so high. Destroying more forest is simply foolish for a town to even consider. If we have gotten to this point because the cost to maintain the small schools is too much, there has obviously been some incredibly poor long term planning. Our little ones should not have to bear the burden of poor planning and decision making.</p>	10/21/2016 9:22 AM
279	<p>In the question about what the planning committee should consider, there were no answers about the impact on the educational possibilities of the buildings. My understanding is that Dr. Lussier thinks consolidating the 7 schools into 6 would benefit students through certain scheduling possibilities. I wish there were significantly more communication about what that means. To me, it's very important to maintain small, neighborhood elementary schools. But I also think it's important to control the spending. The students need buildings that are up to code and perhaps designed with more 21st century learning in mind (flexible learning spaces, more ways to change around rooms for collaborative learning--there is a LOT out there). They don't need fancy materials, etc. To worry about the history of the buildings seems ridiculous to me. Take some pictures.</p>	10/21/2016 8:51 AM
280	<p>The current neighborhood schools model is critical to the character and appeal of the town of Wellesley for families which benefits everyone who is a property owner here. It is also conducive to a community feel which enhances the educational and town experience.</p>	10/21/2016 7:50 AM
281	<p>I think the Middle School experience is a time when kids struggle to adapt to a very large environment. Smaller schools create a more personal experience for the children, teachers and parents and, in my opinion, should be the focus. Saving money by fixing two schools focuses on money over kids and I believe that the number one priority should be the children. In the long run, that will add more value to Wellesley than any tax savings might create. In my opinion, the appreciation of people's homes will more than help cover the additional tax in the long run. We need to invest in making Wellesley the best place for children in the state and country.</p>	10/21/2016 12:03 AM
282	<p>We moved the the Hunnewell School district to be able to walk to school. Our neighborhood school means the world to us. It is the epi-center of our daily lives. We have other children who are still to arrive in that pipeline. The historic nature and ideal setting of Hunnewell must be preserved. thank you.</p>	10/20/2016 11:07 PM
283	<p>While it would be a shame to take down the tree at Hunnewell, I don't think the Town should base our children's educational needs around preserving a tree. It's entirely possible that the tree could die at any time in the future.</p>	10/20/2016 10:44 PM
284	<p>I strongly believe in elementary schools that are 2 classrooms per grade, with a maximum of three. Larger schools are better for administrators. Not teachers. Not students. Not families. Not communities.</p>	10/20/2016 10:43 PM
285	<p>A town that truly values education, should choose to keep all of the neighborhood schools and bring them up to current standards.</p>	10/20/2016 10:31 PM
286	<p>we think that Hunnewell school should be preserved as a school, as it is critical to the southwest location of town. the hardy school seems to be important to the neighborhood but its location is detrimental to traffic activity which is unsafe. hardy school looks like it would require extensive renovation also. Wellesley gave up neighborhood schools in the 1970s. presently most elementary students don't walk to school and are driven by parents creating large traffic queues congesting roads and school entrances. buses, walking, and car pooling should be part of future plans. difficult decisions need to be made.</p>	10/20/2016 9:57 PM

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287	We live in the Schofield neighborhood and bought our house because we could walk to Schofield. However when my oldest was in pre-K, we found out that he would have to go to Sprague because of his special needs. I cried for about a month but ended up embracing it and sent my 2nd child there as well. It was not our neighborhood school, but we all did fine and LOVED it.	10/20/2016 9:56 PM
288	In my opinion, the most important factor in deciding the fate of these schools is the children's education. My understanding is that limiting the size of elementary schools provides an environment that is most conducive to learning. Next, we need to have fiscal responsibility. Finally, we need to respect the environment, consider the impact of traffic patterns, and preserve the historic buildings. It is really not possible to consider a new school on the North 40 in a vacuum. What else will be built there and what will happen to the other schools? (Among many questions that come to mind)	10/20/2016 9:48 PM
289	I am not in agreement of eliminating one of the elementary schools. The elementary years are important years of growth for our children. Larger classrooms are not the answer. This is about the kids and what is right for their education.	10/20/2016 9:47 PM
290	I do think the bus fees are much too high. Lowering them and making routes more efficient could really help.	10/20/2016 9:46 PM
291	I think we should do what is in the best long term interest of the town, as these new or renovated schools will be an investment for decades to come.	10/20/2016 9:41 PM
292	Traffic is currently a major issue at Hardy but I deal with it. Just wish more people would walk to school but the number of cars dropping students off there is surprisingly high on beautiful fall/spring days.	10/20/2016 9:41 PM
293	Before we bought our house, we parked across the street from it and walked with our children to Upham School (our neighborhood elementary school). That was the most important element in our decision to buy in Wellesley. I am deeply grateful to Wellesley for having allowed my husband and myself to give our children the experience of walking to and from school.	10/20/2016 9:38 PM
294	I think it's important to have many small schools; I also think that the schools are located very well now; they are integrated into community. I do not think it's reasonable to maintain both historical character and maintain the location. Therefore, I voted to rebuild all 3 schools in the same places, but not to preserve historical facades.	10/20/2016 9:35 PM
295	I have faith that the school committee and administration will make a decision that has the best interest of our children in mind and realize that whatever the plan ends up to be there will be people who will not be happy with the outcome. While change is hard to accept it can have a positive impact with time and understanding.	10/20/2016 9:31 PM
296	I think any plan to cut down substantial numbers of trees should also include a plan for planting more trees after construction is completed. Traffic needs to be considered seriously in this decision, both in terms of existing bottlenecks and for the safety of any young children who might be walking or biking around the school.	10/20/2016 9:20 PM
297	If it comes down to renovating to keep the 3 schools, I would support that option rather than closing one school.	10/20/2016 9:12 PM
298	If it is really about the children then older structures and trees are not important. Preserving them somehow build a bench out of the tree. Use some older items in the new school like we did at the high school.	10/20/2016 9:08 PM
299	We moved to the area and into our particular house just because of Hardy. We love having the ability to walk to school, the community and the small size.	10/20/2016 8:46 PM
300	Traffic impact: I get why residents want to keep Hardy but the traffic there is already awful. I commute up Weston Road and it is a nightmare now - any increase to that school or construction would really damage quality of life for a good portion of the town. There are no alternative routes. New North 40 school: Would only make sense to use a new site for a school if Hardy and Hunnewell both closed and that location became a large new school. Traffic could be controlled with passage from a few access roads. (No one is going to be happy with that, though I get why the question is on the survey.) Tree: Rebuilding of Hunnewell anywhere near the historic tree will cause it to die within 5 years of the end of construction - so it doesn't really make sense to plan around it (since it will die anyway). I love that tree but it is time to renovate and that portion of land is more build able than other sections of the property. Busing: There's no good reason why the buses are so inefficient. The routes should be shorter, the buses smaller and more numerous so they can go down typical smaller Wellesley streets. The stops should be within a short walk of the student's residence and equitable (i.e., some students should not be picked up at their front door while others walk up to 1/2 mile).	10/20/2016 8:44 PM
301	We moved to Wellesley -- and chose the house that we did -- because of the walkable, neighborhood schools. Having that ability is both an excellent educational experience for the children involved, and a crucial structural necessity for two working parents.	10/20/2016 8:15 PM

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302	I don't like the way the school committee and superintendent appear to be self-dealing in this whole process. It took way too long to solicit the opinions of the taxpayers who will be forced to pay for this project. I have not seen one single study that says these large elementary schools favored by the superintendent are good for children. I've seen many that say they are not. Why is this issue not being addressed? Property values will be affected and I will certainly look for a tax adjustment if a huge school is built in my neighborhood. I brought my kids to Wellesley so they could attend a small, local elementary school, not some huge, impersonal monument to the superintendent.	10/20/2016 8:03 PM
303	I think the neighborhood school platform is excellent and unique to Wellesley. I have not been deeply involved but I do care. Like the presidential election, this can get totally over analyzed and over studied. We are lucky to live in a town with a lot of resources and we can make anything happen. I think Upham is small with only 2 classes. I think the ideal is 3 classrooms. But would pick keeping upham with 2 classrooms over closing. Not sure why we can't improve all 3 schools over a ten year period to stagger costs.	10/20/2016 7:56 PM
304	I have grandkids who have gone through hunnewell. Its about what is best for the education, small size being important	10/20/2016 7:54 PM
305	I'm in support of having smaller neighborhood schools as we do today.	10/20/2016 7:53 PM
306	My interest in keeping the existing elementary schools has also to do with Wellesley's lack of town owned property/land. Wellesley is a wealthy town in many aspects but it is land poor. I would like to see our town keep as much of its existing property and NOT have it turned over to commercial development. Keeping the existing elementary schools (and surrounding property) and the cost it takes to maintain them is well worth the educational benefits and the insurance of proper land use in our town.	10/20/2016 7:47 PM
307	We should not alter the neighborhood school model. It is probably the most important aspect of Wellesley town life. Please figure out a way to keep the schools.	10/20/2016 7:36 PM
308	I do not agree with building a larger elementary school in the Upham location. Upham is in the least densely populated area in town. Busing costs would increase as would number of people dropping off their children by car. Upham has the least easy access of any school in town. While I think updating the schools is important for creating better educational environments, I would want to see how a redistricting plan would impact children with long bus rides and no neighborhood school. I would be in favor of considering one of the schools to operate as kindergarten only or k-1 only.	10/20/2016 7:31 PM
309	The impact on the existing environment (i.e., eliminating existing forests) and impact to traffic needs to be heavily factored in. The reality is that no consultant or city planner can tell you what the likely traffic would be at a new Upham for example where Dukes Road is connected to Wynnewood Road, would not only increase the traffic to those streets to accommodate an even larger school population, but would also be used as a "cut through" for non-school traffic because that would be the fastest way to get from the lower Lowell/Bristol road area in front of Upham to the Royalston area for non-school traffic that is trying to get to/from the Mass Pike for rush hour commuting. So, all traffic (school and non-school) resulting from the creation of a new road which does not currently exist has to be accounted for, not just to anticipated school traffic which is only part of the story.	10/20/2016 6:32 PM
310	Yes, I think Hunnewell is more architecturally attractive than hardy and relates to the historic town hall nearby. I think hardy is in the worst spot on a tight lot near a highway. I could see retaining the historic portion of hardy for other town use.	10/20/2016 6:29 PM
311	I wouldn't support demolition of any of the three elementary school concerned.	10/20/2016 6:20 PM
312	I found question 13 confusing. It mentions a price of \$91-96MM to rebuild two schools (and the resulting peak amount). The question then goes on to address the level of additional investment acceptable to rebuild all three schools vs. consolidating to two. Better might be a question highlighting the estimated amounts to rebuild three or consolidate two. 22 (I think) mentioned traffic. Sprague is the largest elementary school. While our children take the bus, we frequently drop off or pick up and there are very little traffic issues. By extension, there would similarly not be overly-burdensome traffic were Upham to be expanded. Hardy (particularly) and Hunnewell (to a lesser degree) are in much more challenging locations currently regarding traffic...	10/20/2016 5:42 PM
313	I live in the Hardy district so obviously have a bias towards maintaining a school at Hardy/North 40. However a major concern I have is around the demographic data I have seen used to support a view of closing Hardy. I moved into the area 3 years ago with 3 kids under the age of 5. Since then I have a new next door neighbor. They had their first child 12 months ago. Another couple moved in two years ago. They have a 4 year old. Then let's focus on the houses in the Hardy school district. How many are new builds, replacing older, smaller properties? Answer based on my observation is a very high % (and probably more than other areas of Wellesley) Of those how many are being bought by late 30 somethings with very young (growing) families? Again my guess is a very high %. My guess is the data is going to support the fact that, if you look out 5 years from now you are going to an increase in the number of kids of a Hardy School eligible age living in the Hardy district. The truth is that in the area there are a lot of people who have lived there for 20 years, their kids are now post-Hardy age and they are facing a somewhat awkward dynamic of seeing some of their peers move out, their houses get knocked down and replaced with larger family homes owned by those with / planning to have young children.	10/20/2016 5:38 PM

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314	I wrote in something on question 16 or 17 as I was not able to get to the later questions.	10/20/2016 5:36 PM
315	Moving to 2 larger schools is a terrible idea and against all the reasons i moved to wellesley.	10/20/2016 5:35 PM
316	It makes total sense to go to 6 elementary schools- we will still have neighborhood schools, enrollment is decreasing, there are efficiencies in operating fewer schools- 6 is a nice compromise. I think no one wants "their" school closed. I don't see an advantage to using north 40. All 3 of these schools are in bad shape. It makes sense to test one down, and renovate or rebuild the other 2.	10/20/2016 5:30 PM
317	Once upon a time, we closed 4 elementary schools within 3 years throwing the town's elementary school children into bedlam and both - kids and parents - into anxieties. Let us not make the same mistakes again. yYes, our two daughters were involved with one attending three different schools - located all over town - within six years. Those mistakes still haunt many of us surviving parents.	10/20/2016 5:30 PM
318	My preference for two versus three schools will depend in large part on the cost differential (construction costs plus ongoing expenses).	10/20/2016 4:57 PM
319	Invest necessary resources towards future generation education as much as needed, just spend it smart and cost effective.	10/20/2016 4:51 PM
320	I've had children go through both the Sprague school from Kindergarten through 5th grade and Hardy School from Kindergarten through 5th grade. When we first got to Hardy I was really surprised how much dumpier the school was compared to Sprague. I was sad that the kids didn't really have a cafeteria. But, I soon discovered that Hardy had some perks and charms that Sprague didn't have. Hardy's playground is spacious and the kids have more opportunity to hang out after school and really run around. I know that a playground like that can't be built today, it is too high, and that is really too bad. It is much more entertaining than the Sprague playground. I also noticed the difference in community size between Sprague and Hardy. I loved Sprague but it feels like a much bigger school. I'm sure that the number of students and parents can be a little more intimidating for everyone. At Hardy it felt easier to fit in and to always feel included. At Hardy it felt much easier to know every family, every child and to know the neighbors and neighborhoods well. There have also been several studies that the size of the school improves teacher morale, the teachers get to know the students better and the kids behave better. Thanks.	10/20/2016 4:51 PM
321	The quality of teachers is more important than the location or size of the school.	10/20/2016 4:39 PM
322	Neighborhood elementary schools are an integral to building community within the Town. My family including my 4 children benefited from them immensely. I continue to wholeheartedly support the concept and hope that all Wellesley families will be able to enjoy a neighborhood elementary school in the future.	10/20/2016 4:39 PM
323	Neighborhood schools are critical in keeping Wellesley an appealing place to raise children.	10/20/2016 4:38 PM
324	Hi there. What the questions did not cover well was the disruption of construction in terms of education and social impact in students. All students should be a little impacted for two years. Already the consistency of upkeep of the schools feels uneven. As does the student ratio and average teacher tenure. And what about teacher turnover? If students are having to move around during construction, shouldn't teachers need to as well as Hardy teachers start to leave? Finally, shouldn't Hardy students be given option to be permanently located to Bates? I live closer to Bates than Hardy yet am in Hardy. Doesn't feel fair if my kid needs to move two years and then move somewhere else when school he is closest to is not touched (Bates). I think Hardy parents would fell better if they felt every single parent with a kid in elementary school had to sacrifice a bit to make this work.	10/20/2016 4:38 PM
325	I do not support the school consolidation (at all).	10/20/2016 4:36 PM
326	I don't believe a new larger school should be put where Upham is, period, due to the following issue regarding crossing Route 9. I believe a consolidated school (for Hunnewell and Hardy) on the other side of Route 9, such as at the North 40 would make sense, so people will not be crossing Route 9 to get to and from their elementary school. I'm not concerned about the demolition of either Hardy or Hunnewell. I am concerned about the traffic impact on Weston Road near Central Street.	10/20/2016 4:32 PM
327	Is it possible to consolidate to 2 schools or redistrict with one less school and then sell the property of the school that is closed? Wouldn't this be a good way to offset construction costs?	10/20/2016 3:09 PM
328	DO NOT CLOSE any of our schools. Consider what is importance to the children and residents of Wellesley, and not individual and selfish view from administrators that are more interested in raising their profile by making changes just to go on record as a "change agent" and in a few years maybe decide to leave to pursue other opportunities.	10/20/2016 3:03 PM
329	The neighborhoods of wellesley are unique for being so close to Boston. We moved from Sprague to Upham just for the neighborhood. Traffic impact to Lowell road from a bigger school would be very disruptive. Sidewalks should be significantly improved all over.	10/20/2016 2:52 PM
330	We purchased and moved to our home specifically so that our 3 children could walk to Hunnewell school on the Brook Path throughout the entirety of their elementary school years (current ages 1,3,5).	10/20/2016 2:46 PM

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331	You can get rid of one school maximum and it can't be Upham (because you need it north side of town) and it probably shouldn't be Hunnewell (because there isn't one in that area south of route 16. You could flip Hardy and its playground if you keep three schools. Upham is the one school that must stay and must be made bigger. Whether it is built new or renovated like Bates does not matter to me. It is just unhealthily small and it is affecting the housing market north of Route 9. 3 classrooms per school like Sprague and Bates are really healthy. I would think that redistricting would have to happen, though, as painful as that might be.	10/20/2016 2:39 PM
332	I think neighborhood schools are really important to our town. And size matters - the supersized Upham model sounds way to big - for the kids and neighbors alike. But I also think redistricting is important. Right now it feels like there are some districts with odd anomalies, such as the Bates carve out on the western side of Weston Road and Sprague district in Wellesley Farms. I think there could be better and more logical districts that would expand Upham. Redistricting sounds much better than the current model of "closing" grades at specific schools (which is really mean for incoming families and undercuts the neighborhood model).	10/20/2016 2:21 PM
333	I don't know enough about the Hunnewell Tree to have an opinion. I've been inside all 3 schools, and they need to be replaced or at least have major renovations.	10/20/2016 2:21 PM
334	If building a new school on the North 40 was a replacement for one of the existing schools that needs to be rebuilt (presumably Hardy as that is the closest school to the North 40), then that is acceptable too, and probably less disruptive to the Hardy community, although would mean a far longer walk to the school for my children (and yes, I will have elementary age children until 2025). If the only option was to knock down existing, historic parts of the schools and trees, and not close one school in the process, then I am for it. However, why could there not be a design that incorporates the current historic parts of the school such as at Sprague.	10/20/2016 2:20 PM
335	When we moved to Wellesley in 2014, we picked our location based on the school system and the district where our home resides. I would be concerned as to potential change in valuation of my property if there was a decision to close Upham. I would think that given the location of the Upham School in the middle of a residential neighborhood, it would be a great option to rebuild and expand for overflow from other schools. The other schools in question sit on land that would have more accessibility, marketability and usage for potentially other purposes.	10/20/2016 2:08 PM
336	I think it's very important to stop closing classrooms in schools. New families with young children do not want to go to another school not in their neighborhood. That's one of the main reasons young families move to Wellesley.	10/20/2016 2:03 PM
337	in question #18 it is not clear if the elementary school children would walk alone or be accompanied by an adult - given the issues with traffic and traffic congestion (and really bad drivers all over Wellesley and MA) I would not feel comfortable having young children walk anywhere in Wellesley alone. Children 10 or older is where I start to feel more comfortable walking 3/4 of a mile or longer to school.	10/20/2016 1:42 PM
338	There will be trade offs with any plan. given all the factors to consider, I can imagine supporting a plan to rebuild according to any of the plans laid out in the previous questions. I would need to see the full cases to determine which is best.	10/20/2016 1:37 PM
339	Modernizing the existing elementary schools helps teachers and staff achieve the educational standard set by the Wellesley High renovation. Upham is substandard and the school pride/parent involvement directly correlates with the rundown interior and exterior. I am in favor of renovating all three schools no matter cost to taxpayers so that we can keep neighbors together in neighborhood schools.	10/20/2016 1:32 PM
340	I don't have enough information as to know if renovating three schools would be more expensive than close one and rebuild two of them, so I don't know if that would require more taxes.	10/20/2016 1:30 PM
341	Keep neighborhood schools	10/20/2016 1:17 PM
342	I am for the three school plan if at all possibly because neighborhood schools are the best. Sadly this may mean that Hunnewell and Hardy may lose some of their cherished historic structure, but if the outcome is three, well constructed schools (that also address the traffic issues for H&H) it will ultimately be for the best.	10/20/2016 1:10 PM
343	Since my children attended Sprague it is difficult to answer some of the specific questions as I am not overly familiar with the other school buildings...but I know they need improvements and I do believe traffic needs to be looked at carefully	10/20/2016 1:08 PM
344	Small schools are the way to go. No need for Mega schools.	10/20/2016 12:59 PM
345	Yes, I would support the current Upham school being demolished and a new one built on the Dukes field as long as it is not a 4 section "super school". That would be too many children in one school. It would cause too much traffic and lose the "neighborhood feel of the school".	10/20/2016 12:59 PM

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346	Walking to school is a fabulous benefit to our children and our neighborhoods and arguably to our real estate values, but frankly the latter is less important to me. The reality is that walking is getting more dangerous with distracted driving due to the use of cell phones, dashboard screens, etc. There are still a few neighborhoods that have access to walking on safe roads and those schools should be preserved for those large neighborhoods that support them (eg, Bates and the Northgate Neighborhood, Schofield and the Poets neighborhood, etc). However, Hardy is in a tough location to support walking safety. Yes, it is accessible to the neighborhood behind, but Weston road and the existing traffic is horrendous. I do support the ability to walk to school but sometimes change is necessary for the greater good of the community.	10/20/2016 12:59 PM
347	Yes, my family lives on Morses Pond at the Natick line. We are not close to any schools, so when we purchased our home, we were just grateful to get into Wellesley because of the excellent school system. Did not have children at the time of purchase of our home. When my kids were at Hardy, once a month was a walk to school day & that was fun because we went to school by boat & then walking. (Shout out to Mr. Guzzi!) Given all this my family is spoiled because we live on a beautiful pond VS. most houses in Wellesley, the typical house is in a neighborhood & going to school with neighborhood children is very important for a sense of community. These are friendships that last a lifetime!	10/20/2016 12:49 PM
348	Keeping neighborhood schools is so important - I would gladly pay a high one time tax to help. I see how amazing it is for kids who walk and know everyone on the way to school.	10/20/2016 12:49 PM
349	I	10/20/2016 12:41 PM
350	While the architectural charm of Honeywell and Hardy is notable, and it's a perk to have the option to walk to school, neither of these should outweigh the primary offering of Wellesley Public Schools and the reason many of us paid a premium to live here: Best in class education. As parents we should optimize for state of the art facilities that enrich educational opportunities, versus hanging onto walkable museums. As taxpayers, we should take a fiscally responsible approach by building two new schools, not three.	10/20/2016 12:39 PM
351	I am not familiar with the Hunnewell Courtyard Tree.	10/20/2016 12:34 PM
352	I just want to say that having read all of the empirical data/research, I am yet to see a single benefit to closing a school that goes beyond cost savings. The people who want the cost savings clearly resent a higher tax burden...too bad. You live in a town that is popular for one reason above ALL others...the quality of its overall education system, and more specifically, the quality its neighborhood elementary schools. Those things aren't free. They require lots of money and time from dedicated individuals.	10/20/2016 12:29 PM
353	Neighborhood schools are an amazing aspect of our town - lets not lose them. The value extends across all members of the family and its what allows us to be a community that cares and knows one another. If my kids were bussed or driven over their elementary years, i would have met only a small fraction of the families i have known for the past 15 years. This topic was the catalyst that had me attend my 1st town meeting in the 23 years i have lived in Wellesley. It appears to me that the initial plan to close hardy was a forced, predetermined solution. I was very unimpressed by what i witnessed.	10/20/2016 12:27 PM
354	My top priority is to do something (anything). These schools are in horrible condition. New or renovated schools of any type would improve the student experience and my property values.	10/20/2016 12:24 PM
355	I found the "how much more would you pay to rebuild" question to be disingenuous, particularly since the question immediately prior to it discusses options of EITHER renovating to code, or rebuilding with all the bells and whistles. Yet the specific "how much more" question offers ONLY the option of what one would pay to rebuild three schools. Certainly it is possible that residents (and I would be one of them) might support renovations of the three schools short of total rebuilds, in exchange for lower total costs (or if this lower level of renovation was the same cost as consolidating and new-builds for two schools). Yet the way the question is posed, it is impossible for me to express that opinion - instead, my only option is to accept the premise that three schools need to be entirely rebuilt, and express how much "more" I would be willing to pay for that than for consolidation of two. That's hardly a fair question.	10/20/2016 12:20 PM
356	I did not support the North 40 option, but that is because it seems like a terrible walking and biking location, not because of a desire to preserve the woods. If I am mistaken and it is a good walking option with one of the other remaining schools, I would support it.	10/20/2016 12:20 PM
357	Hard to opine on merits of consolidation without more facts about the specifics being proposed. In general, its awesome to be able to walk to elementary school and seems nice to keep them on the smaller scale.	10/20/2016 12:10 PM

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358	I think it is important to consolidate these elementary schools. The "neighborhood school" idea is unimportant. Too much traffic, unsafe routes, and a lack of sidewalks keep my kids from walking to school even though I live only a few blocks from Hunnewell. Kids are too young in elementary school to be unattended for this amount of time anyway. Also, class sizes are too small and we have found, with 4 kids, that 2 classes/grade has been stifling socially. It would be wonderful to expand the grade levels and modernize school sites accordingly. Car lines with appropriate drop off and pick up lines would help traffic be more efficient. At Hunnewell, it is next to impossible to get near the school without taking over the library lot and surrounding streets. It's ridiculous. Teachers don't want the responsibility of watching kids before class time, so they want parents to come and handle it, but there isn't parking for an entire school. A car line with an active drop off would alleviate all issues and make traffic more predictable.	10/20/2016 12:08 PM
359	Current school districts are silly, esp for bates, hardy and sprague. Personnel costs and cost of frequent searches for principals getting out of hand, not only salaries but pension and health ins costs	10/20/2016 12:07 PM
360	I love the neighborhood schools but is this the best educational model? The 7 schools are separate entities and seem to follow different curriculum topics, programs and policies. They all do different things yet most of the students go on to WMS and WHS and with very different learning experiences. Consolidating schools could improve the educational experience.	10/20/2016 12:02 PM
361	I found it difficult to answer yes or no to the two school plan. Is this supported by demographic data? What are the different scenarios and what are the impacts? Where are we now for the 7 elementary schools? SWOT Where do we want to be? What is the vision? Is your work to present a couple of viable alternatives to the School Committee to evaluate and discuss? Option A - Keep all three schools, pros and cons Option B - Consolidate to X, Y Option C - Consolidate to Y, Z What options are you ruling out, not considering and why?	10/20/2016 12:02 PM
362	No	10/20/2016 11:57 AM
363	The small neighborhood schools give Wellesley a distinctive and unique feeling. I love raising our children in an area where we can walk or bike to school (and we do!!!) and where their school is comprised of our neighbors. This "old fashioned" or "retro" feeling is priceless and highly desirable. Small neighborhood schools are what set Wellesley apart from other towns in the area. This is a main reason why Wellesley is a desirable location for home-buyers and helps to keep our real estate attractive. Larger schools make Wellesley much like other towns and give buyers less reason to may the expensive Wellesley prices for homes. It is why we moved to town.	10/20/2016 11:56 AM
364	I would support renovation of Hardy and Hunnewell, even demolishing the historic parts. I would not support a plan to remove either one of these schools and/or consolidation to a larger school at Upham.	10/20/2016 11:54 AM
365	I think class size is important and also needs to be addressed. My son's current third grade class at Bates is 23 students and way too big. I expected smaller class sizes when I moved to Wellesley	10/20/2016 11:47 AM
366	Go with the least expensive option.	10/20/2016 11:45 AM
367	We are now in the Bates district but spent my son's kindergarten year at Hunnewell. That experience confirmed for me that Hunnewell desperately needs the renovation and that there is something special about having a large number of students walk to school.	10/20/2016 11:42 AM
368	I found a few of the items hard to answer, esp the way the item 13 on costs of 2 vs 3 was worded. I liked the questions around bussing and walk ability. I would feel happier about paying extra taxes to preserve the community elements of hhu experiences if, at the same time, some efforts were made town-wise to improve bussing and walking options for those in All elementary school zones. Public, non-car transport should be a townwide priority, not just an hhu priority.	10/20/2016 11:40 AM
369	Taxes in Wellesley are soaring!!!!!! They must be minimized, soon it will drive out the elderly and middle class. There is no reason 2 schools with a lower operating budget should not be chosen. If not you are risking the future of the whole, for a FEW who will only be in grammar school for a FEW years!!!!!!!!!! Do not be bullied by a FEW	10/20/2016 11:37 AM
370	We moved from the Hardy school system 1 year ago so I feel sad to hear that Hardy may be torn down. My husband went to Hardy. People are having more children these days, tearing down a school and consolidating will cause a problem down the road. Households are having 3-4 children. In 10 years, classrooms will be maxed at the capacity and what will happen then. Please consider this when making your decision. It seem renovation on all 3 schools is the right decision. Thank you.	10/20/2016 11:33 AM
371	I do not think Upham should be the location for the new school. I support a new school else where and where kids can walk to school! There is a small percentage of kids who walk at Upham.	10/20/2016 11:32 AM
372	It is impossible to say whether I would support any of the plans above with so few specific details provided. Therefore I have not submitted a response to those questions.	10/20/2016 11:31 AM
373	I'd like to understand more detail on costs necessary to upgrade/renovate existing HHU schools without complete replacement.	10/20/2016 11:26 AM

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374	My children have had experience of attending the school which was built about a 100 years ago. They did such a great job in remodelling, so children could stay in the same school with nice class rooms inside. I hope the children can stay with the same friends and teachers they have now.	10/20/2016 11:24 AM
375	I wasn't aware of the piece about protecting the Hunnewell tree, but I would support it - and any of the other projects that involve trees (like to build behind Upham) if we plant trees around town to replace the removed trees.	10/20/2016 11:23 AM
376	I think that reducing the number of schools makes sense. There is no reason we need seven elementary schools and the middle and high schools show that a large school does not produce a worse educational experience.	10/20/2016 11:23 AM
377	I really would need to see the plan before I gave a full yes or no answer. I think blasting and clearly trees are incredibly disruptive, yet there are teardowns that happen in the Cliff Estate area constantly, so it's not to say that a rebuild of Upham won't be a good thing (not that the teardown necessarily are!). As for Hunnewell, the building is not an architectural gem like the Sprague building, so it might make sense to lose it, but it's difficult to assess without seeing renderings.	10/20/2016 11:20 AM
378	Keep neighborhood schools.	10/20/2016 11:18 AM
379	I believe the neighborhood school concept is very difficult to put a dollar value on, but has been an incredibly important part of our family's happiness in Wellesley. We have developed a strong sense of community, made new friends, and strengthened friendships because we are so involved in the school. I believe that the high rate of volunteerism at Fiske would diminish if the school's were not as close in proximity to our homes.	10/20/2016 11:13 AM
380	I think the district needs to do what is right to make Wellesley schools first rate learning institutions and also economically feasible for the entire community. Look at the projected enrollments, the quality of education and the cost of construction and ongoing operations, first and all personal feelings, wants and beliefs, second.	10/20/2016 11:11 AM
381	If these above mentioned schools do need to be renovated and the best and most efficient plan is to remove portions of the schools that are aged and out of date, I support the plan to do so. But such a plan must be the best and most efficient plan out of all options.	10/20/2016 11:11 AM
382	My answers are based what's best for the town, children and environment. (and in that priority) thank you for taking my consideration.	10/20/2016 11:08 AM
383	Many of these questions are difficult to answer because they are dictated by the ranges provided, so they are certainly not perfect answers in certain circumstances. We live about 1 1/4 miles from Hardy and my current 6th grader walked to school all last year and my current 5th grader walks this year. They had/have what I call a walking school bus, where the one living furthest away starts out first and stops to pick up people along the way, so the group grows.	10/20/2016 11:04 AM
384	We were a young family when we moved to <b>[Redacted]</b> Rd and bought in the neighborhood knowing we could walk to Bates. Now we are at Bates. Walking to Bates with other neighborhood kids is a childhood experience that I would never want to take away (if we have to drive to upham). We walk to school everyday, rain or shine. We value the community it creates, being outside, and children's curiosity and exploration about the environment, other kids, animals, etc. Finally Cleveland Rd will be a cut thru road if Hardy is closed and Upham becomes a "super sized school." The traffic and safety concerns for our children and the neighborhood children is another big factor for our decision.	10/20/2016 11:01 AM
385	Any of the options that would result in closing Upham are significantly problematic as many people that are north of rt 9 will now be going to school south of rt 9... if anyone has tried to navigate rt 9 at morning drop off time this is a huge traffic issue. I also think the traffic at hardy and north 40 is already a problem, adding a bigger school to either area would add material pressure on the existing traffic there.	10/20/2016 10:56 AM
386	I would have thought that a renovated Hunnewell has to be a component of the go forward HHU plan as it would represent the only elementary school available on the southern side of the central corridor of Wellesley. Furthermore, it's proximity to the greater Dana Hall neighborhoods lends itself to a high percentage of walking students, minimizing go forward traffic impacts of any new construction plan. In contrast, I would have also thought that any school construction on the North 40 would not be proximate to a significant number of houses and require crossings of Weston Road likely requiring transportation for nearly all attending students, which would be a counterproductive result of this project.	10/20/2016 10:53 AM
387	New Modern schools are great, but keeping our legacy is important. This is new england, with history and prestige. Let's embrace that.	10/20/2016 10:52 AM
388	IT IS CRITICAL THAT THERE CONTINUE TO BE 2 NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS, NORTH OF ROUTE 9, TO ACCOMMODATE THE CHILDREN WHO LIVE THERE. The Upham location should remain a school site.	10/20/2016 10:52 AM
389	In addition to traffic directly near the school, crosstown traffic at the major congestion zones should be considered as well.	10/20/2016 10:52 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

390	Regarding the North 40, I assume that the property is going to get developed in one way or another and that's going to involve cutting down trees. It's sad but that's what we should expect now that the land has been sold off. Having a nice elementary school there with new facilities is a good option.	10/20/2016 10:50 AM
391	One of the main attractions for us to move into Wellesley and pay the higher than average cost of housing here is the school system. I very much like that the elementary schools are small, personable, and not overwhelming to young children. I like that we are surrounded by greenery; much needed to address climate change. I am against deforestation and destruction/building on open school spaces. If we had wanted to live in a concrete jungle, we would have moved to Boston. If we had wanted larger school sizes, we would moved to Newton. Wellesley is unique in this regard, so do not take that away.	10/20/2016 10:50 AM
392	A few weeks ago there was a gathering at a couple's house who's daughter had left for college earlier in September. More than 50 parents joined in - the community of adults whose children started together at Hardy and launched off to college. The connections that had built between families at school drop offs, time at the playground after school and school based sports programs (back in the days that kinder kicks and Wellesley Soccer were primarily grouped together based on elementary schools). These are parents I could call to walk my child home if I was late from work, they are families that I've come to know and trust like my own family. This sense of community was not built on drop offs in a car line or back-to-school nights. It grew from the time that we spent talking on the walk to school, or on the playground after we arrived. This intimate community allowed my very shy son to come out of his shell because he knew and trusted the kids and families around him. If we move to larger, "more efficient" schools, we risk losing the social element that is so critical to educational progress. I grew up in a town with local elementary schools, where everyone walked to school. When we moved to Wellesley, before our kids were born, it was a priority to find a community with the same approach and value system. Bigger and more efficient does not mean a better quality experience for our kids. Access to better technology in the early years is not nearly as critical as developing a strong sense of self and eagerness to learn. Please do not lose the character that makes the Wellesley school system so special.	10/20/2016 10:50 AM
393	We bought our home specifically for the walkability to Sprague. That being said, I often drive the kids. I think that you should survey how often kids actually walk, because "the idea" of walkability is different than actually walking - this may help you really narrow this down. Traffic on Weston road is egregious so anything you can do to minimize it would be appreciated which is why I am not in favor of a N 40 site. While I don't like Forest being cut down, it is particularly that you'd cut it down and end up with a potential traffic nightmare anyway.	10/20/2016 10:46 AM
394	Simply put, we moved to Wellesley largely based on the reputation of the school system. Our children attend Upham, and while we appreciate local concern for traffic and opposition to change, I am purely focused on the quality of education and schooling experience. I like the idea of smaller classrooms and walkable schools because I think it increases the probability my children will receive a strong education and enjoy their school experience. If the council believes my priorities can be achieved with 2 schools rather than 3 I am fine with that. Right now I am dissatisfied with the school facility and I don't think our children are pushed hard enough. And while renovating the schools will not impact the intensity of the learning, this discussion is a major distraction to what is really important, our children's education.	10/20/2016 10:44 AM
395	I would very much like to see a school remain at the Hardy site. It is a large parcel of land that could support the building of a new school or addition to existing building while leaving the current school in tact. Traffic is currently a problem on Weston Rd but with all the surrounding land and back entrances to the fields/playground, it seems very feasible to improve the dropoff / pickup access. It is a great parcel of land for school and green space and I am concerned about what that land would become if it were no longer used for a school.	10/20/2016 10:43 AM
396	I think question 13 is worded in a very confusing way. The datapoint on the increase on the median tax bill is for 2 schools, and yet the question asks about 3 schools, and doesn't provide answer choices that even reach the numerical level of the datapoint. I would consider rewording that question to reflect what you mean to ask.	10/20/2016 10:42 AM
397	I feel we need to do what is best for the community as a whole while maintaining a quality education while being fiscally responsible.	10/20/2016 10:40 AM
398	Renovating or rebuilding the current 3 schools is the path of least resistance and makes the most sense. Finding a way to keep costs in line with other options, i.e. shutting down a school should be something this group is capable of figuring out.	10/20/2016 10:40 AM
399	Wellesley should have a lot more bike paths and protected bike lanes, at the very least along routes closer to all schools.	10/20/2016 10:39 AM
400	Thank you for conducting the survey. I hope the decision-making progress takes the input seriously.	10/20/2016 10:36 AM
401	School size question should be based on class size, not total student population. For example, I would consider it fine for a school to have 400 students if it still had average class size of 20-25 whereas I would not want a school to have 300 students but an average class size of 25-30 students.	10/20/2016 10:34 AM

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402	Retrofitting existing schools for new technology/infrastructure is not feasible nor cost effective. There will continually be issues with the older structure, (leaking roofs, etc), that will cause issues in the future and add unforeseen future costs. Having said that, I'm not aware of issues of this nature since Sprague reopened in 2002. Probably a good use case to check. What have been the pros and cons of building a new WHS versus updating the existing WMS?	10/20/2016 10:34 AM
403	As a Hunnewell parent, I feel I cannot answer questions about other schools. I am concerned by the line of questioning regarding reducing traffic. I hope that future plans do not include dedicating more space to cars, as that will only encourage more people to drive, and therefore create more traffic. What I love most about Wellesley is our ability to walk and bike to much of the town. We should be encouraging more use of bicycle and foot traffic.	10/20/2016 10:32 AM
404	Eliminating Upham and re-districting the Upham homes to a school across Rte. 9 would not only negatively impact home values in the Upham district, but would make for a very difficult transportation situation for those students and their families. If the vote is to eliminate Upham School and send those students across Rte. 9, I would vigorously oppose that plan and any tax increase used to pay for it. Why would any homeowner vote for a plan that simultaneously increases their real estate tax and lowers the value of their home? We need two schools on the north side of Rte. 9.	10/20/2016 10:32 AM
405	A few thoughts: 1. Taxpayer concerns - I understand this is expensive, but Wellesley Real Estate has been among top in state for years due to (i) schools, (ii) nice downtown, (iii) proximity to Boston, (iv) and well run town by people who care. So it's worth it. However, I do appreciate there is a limit on taxes -- see Ridgewood, NJ (similar nice town like Wellesley). NJ taxes are out of control and as a result, Ridgewood real estate prices have stagnated over past 15 years. 2. I like neighborhood schools. Consolidating to 2 schools will leave traffic issues + will not be enough in 15 years when next Baby Boom (from Millenials' kids) comes about.	10/20/2016 10:31 AM
406	I am concerned that the focus on this project is crowding out funding, time and attention for other needed infrastructure projects around the community.	10/20/2016 10:31 AM
407	The neighborhood school concept is a unique and special attraction to Wellesley and should not be eliminated. There are several schools which have already been either demolished or converted (Philips, Warren, Perrin, for example) and we cannot afford to lose more of them. Having said that, if there is a plan to consolidate, it makes NO sense to build at the Upham site. The traffic would be too difficult, there is no room there and the neighborhood would be ruined. The Hardy site is ideal as it has a lot of land and fields and is well suited to handle a larger facility. Please do not use the Upham site as an option for consolidation. It will ruin the schools and our town.	10/20/2016 10:31 AM
408	North 40 would be a traffic nightmare. If there was a significant plan to address the traffic, then that would be feasible but the traffic impacts would be more than just at the point of entry so I am not sure how that would work.	10/20/2016 10:28 AM
409	Ultimately, the district needs to do what is fair to all students. The fact that class size is so small in Upham and so large in Hardy is inequitable and has been for years. The Upham neighborhood sends a significant percentage of its students to private school, so I don't support plans to build the biggest school in that location. Those kids don't attend the school to start with.	10/20/2016 10:27 AM
410	keep all the schools open!!	10/20/2016 10:26 AM
411	There needs to be at least 2 schools north of route 9 where roughly 50% of school kids live. Crossing route 9 for younger kids is a disaster, and driving across route 9 from the north in the morning is a disaster too. We cannot just have Bates north of route 9, there must be 2 schools there, including Upham (either renovated or newly built).	10/20/2016 9:48 AM
412	While historic preservation can be good, when weighed against providing a good educational experience, it begins to look like just sentiment. Preserve the buildings if you can, but don't hang on to the past if it comes at the expense of the future.	10/20/2016 9:38 AM
413	Although I would be very sad to see the significant courtyard tree go at Hunnewell, I would not like to see that stand in the way of necessary construction. Hunnewell also has that very nice "grove" of trees in the playground area. Although not as beautiful, they are a wonderful part of that neighborhood and I could take comfort in them. Also, if the courtyard tree must go, I encourage the town to plant what will eventually become another amazing tree. Should this idea be considered, Cricket Vlass should be instrumental in this decision, and this new tree could even become a part of the Hunnewell school curriculum from planting it, to monitoring its growth and health, to photographing and drawing it.	10/20/2016 9:30 AM
414	As we all know school enrollment goes up and down as we see by all the schools that are now housing or used by the town. Taxes are already crazy in this town that had one of the lowest when I moved here. We need a vision for the future and not a mad scramble every time an issue comes up. A major problem I've seen in my 30 years of living in Wellesley is short term goals without thinking of the future and it continues today.	10/20/2016 8:21 AM
415	We had 3 children go through Hardy prior to moving across town to Fiske area. We were far more satisfied with our Hardy School experience from not only a social and educational perspective, but from walkability and quality of facility and sense of community. One of the reasons we moved to Wellesley, to our house on <b>[Redacted]</b> Circle, was the location and ease of access to the school.	10/20/2016 6:21 AM

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416	Keeping some of the similar architectural traits of existing historical structures may appease some of those wanting to keep the buildings. Renovating old buildings in the long run is more expense then getting rid of 80 and 92 year old buildings. If we're going to build/remodel let's do it right the first time. As for traffic flow, considering how the town already has severe issues on Rt 16, Weston Rd, Rt 9, addressing the traffic flow of the schools must be taken into consideration.	10/20/2016 12:57 AM
417	Walking/biking distance depends on age of child, presently no busses available in Upham neighborhood and lack of sidewalks and blind curves puts young walkers at risk especially when there are banks of snow and no posing of existing sidewalks. increased size brings more traffic and risk to young walkers.	10/20/2016 12:17 AM
418	I found it difficult to answer some of these questions and I wish there was a box for comments for each one. #13: The increase in tax burden that I would be willing to bear would depend entirely on the final configuration of the project and whether I feel I can support it. #14: I would list a different set of priorities -- among my priorities would be the environmental sustainability of the project as a whole -- not just the environmental impact of construction. #25: My answer to the question about whether I would approve of the demolition of historic parts of the buildings would depend on the design of the new building. My preference would be for preserving the old structures but I know that isn't always possible. I would not want to see an architecturally unremarkable building like the senior center replace the old buildings -- but I would support an interesting design that suits the neighborhood.	10/19/2016 11:40 PM
419	Keep all existing schools and improve as needed.	10/19/2016 11:13 PM
420	We moved to Wellesley, specifically to the Hardy district, so that our children could attend a top-notch modest sized neighborhood school. The school building is dilapidated; however, the highly interconnected relationships among families and staff provides our children with a rich educational experience and a strong foundation for life.	10/19/2016 9:46 PM
421	Again, if students took the bus, and the bus fee wasn't 521.00 per child, I think a quite few of these issues on traffic would be resolved.	10/19/2016 8:56 PM
422	The most important factor is that the children continue to get a quality education not the number of schools but classroom size, facility condition, the curriculum, and the quality of the educators.	10/19/2016 8:53 PM
423	I am not wholly opposed to a school on the north 40, but I would need to know much more about where the school would be, the environmental and traffic implications, and also what would happen to the existing Hardy building and green space behind Hardy. The Hardy school yard is a wonderful community gathering place, and a necessary green space in this part of town. Any plan to close Hardy would need to include complete information for the taxpayers about what would happen to that space, and I could never support a plan that would take away the playground and green space.	10/19/2016 8:46 PM
424	Question #12 you asked something about the Level of investment that was appropriate for a "Modern Educational Standard"- I would like to understand what your definition is of "Modern Educational Standards" as there could be implications that your survey is using without a properly defining this for your survey. Question #16 you did not allow multiple options and I would be willing to support a school that ranged from 200-400 students. Your question about using the North 40 as a potential site would require the closing of 1-2 of the schools and this was not made clear in your survey. Why was there no question in regards to renovating all three schools? Have you already decided that you are closing a school prior to sending this survey out?	10/19/2016 8:42 PM
425	One of the things that is unique about Wellesley is its neighborhood schools. Neighborhoods are defined by their school and are held dear by residents. Also, neighborhood schools are a critical factor in deciding to live in Wellesley and greatly enhance property values. Neighborhood schools enhance the learning process by being a small community. Do not destroy our communities. Keep Wellesley's small community based schools vibrant by renewing them.	10/19/2016 8:37 PM
426	See below!	10/19/2016 7:39 PM
427	Using swing space anywhere other than current school or north 40 is unacceptable. Under no circumstances should a religious school be used. Under no circumstances should a school that cannot fit the entire population needing swing space be used.	10/19/2016 7:21 PM
428	I firmly believe in life that once you get to where you are going in life you must always remember to turn around and help the one behind. Therefore I think it is critical that at least two schools remain open north of Route nine to accommodate the large percentage of children who live there. If only one school remains open north of Route 9, then that area would be a completely undesirable place to live and real estate values would drop through the floor. It is not appropriate nor thoughtful to do that to any fellow citizen in the town of Wellesley. You don't dump on fellow citizens to solve a townwide problem.	10/19/2016 7:14 PM
429	I think it is desirable to have neighborhood schools but we haven't had one in my neighborhood for years. The town busily closed the schools located in the center of the town, unfortunately. But for those who can have a neighborhood school I applaud that!	10/19/2016 6:58 PM
430	If a school is eliminated I would like to see it converted to suitable housing for the 55+ community.	10/19/2016 6:54 PM

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431	I actually lived in the Bates district when my kids were in Elementary school. They were there during the major renovation of Bates. Because I am aware of the disruption renovations can have on kids, I favor the shortest time possible needed for disruptions. I never understood why Upham was needed, as it is so close to Bates School. Would it make sense to expand Bates to include more students from the Upham area?	10/19/2016 6:20 PM
432	The traffic on Weston Road is completely untenable around school drop off and pick up and the lot the school is on is by far the worst for a community school. Getting rid of Hardy and expanding Hunnewell and Upham makes the most sense for school atmosphere as well as traffic patterns. Putting a school on the North 40 lot would be a real loss of green space and cause even more traffic problems.	10/19/2016 6:17 PM
433	I do not like to see any schools closed.	10/19/2016 5:58 PM
434	Walkability is a major factor. If Upham is closed, there will be only one school (Bates) on the north side of route 9. That would have a major impact on our neighborhood feel and require our kids to travel much farther to school. Also the traffic concerns on Weston Road if Hardy is expanded is a concern.	10/19/2016 5:56 PM
435	I have no strong loyalty to our "neighborhood" school and have no strong emotional opinion, like so many, on the topic of your survey. I filled this out at the request of a friend who is quite fired up on the issue. My perspective is likely different as I grew up in a town like Wellesley- little diversity, middle to upper class, etc. and we went to a single elementary school. There were 200 kids in my grade- and we pretty much went through our public school as a group until the day we graduated high school. Where I'm from you took a bus to school and I would love nothing more than to put my two kids on the bus in the morning to go to "school". I could care less if it's big or small- as long as the education provided is appropriate and the facilities in which they learn are safe. I never moved to Wellesley because We can walk to school- I drive my kids because I have to go to work and don't have time to take a leisurely stroll to our school everyday.	10/19/2016 5:05 PM
436	I had a hard time with question #16 because my belief in what population is "optimal" is not the same as my belief in what population is "manageable" without degradation to the educational experience. I replied "no opinion" to several questions because I have not been following the issue closely and therefore, I lack knowledge of the details required for me to state an educated opinion.	10/19/2016 5:00 PM
437	My kids went through construction for 3 years in the elementary school (Bates), 2 years in the middle school and 2+ years in the high school. The amount of time the children are displaced for elementary school changes should not be a big impact unless the middle school and high school are planned for renovations thereafter. Having my kids go to schools under construction for so many years had to have had an impact on their level of education or at least psychologically.	10/19/2016 4:24 PM
438	I think the schools have minimal historic meaning. If the town truly cared about this kind of stuff we'd have zoning that affected the ballooning size of houses here.	10/19/2016 4:17 PM
439	While i love the historic appeal of hunnewell and hardy, if some kind of replica of ghe old schools or some part was safes to resoect their hands story in a more economical or oracticsl way, that woudk be great. I am fine about taking these buikdings down if the replacements were sensitive to the aesthetics of the ild schools.	10/19/2016 4:17 PM
440	In order to modernize education and keep up with other school districts, changes have to be made to all or some of the buildings. Whatever plan makes fiscal sense, traffic flow sense and causes the least disruption to the school year is the best plan. What impact will any of this have on home prices? I think that would be of great interest to everyone concerned.	10/19/2016 4:11 PM
441	2 classrooms per grade is too small. We need to keep 2 schools north of Rt 9	10/19/2016 3:48 PM
442	This process is tearing the fabric of our community. The hundreds of people that are opposed to this process should alone give the proponents of this 6 school system pause.	10/19/2016 3:46 PM
443	I said it all in my other note but, again, thank you for all of your hard work.	10/19/2016 3:42 PM
444	I think the number of students in the class is more important then how many classes are offered for each grade per school. I feel strongly that the first priority of the decision should be based on how to provide the highest quality buildings for the lowest cost.	10/19/2016 3:40 PM
445	Whether I could support the closure of one or two of the referenced schools will depend on the totality of the factors, including construction and subsequent operation costs of the "new" schools, exact location and design and layout of the proposed new or renovated schools and some of your questions on those issues were too simplistic for a real response.	10/19/2016 3:35 PM
446	Unless you are looking for biases, I'm not sure most of us survey respondents know more than Dr Lussier and the principals and teachers about which size classrooms or number of classes.grade are best for learning. More should be done to keep cars away from the schools. Consider "remote dropoff" and "remote pickup" to improve safety and promote taking the bus and walking. The kids could be bused to a place with a lot where cars could wait for pickup. Drop off could work the same. This is done in urban schools.	10/19/2016 3:32 PM

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447	I think we need to trust the citizens and staff who have spent months reflecting upon these tough issues.	10/19/2016 3:32 PM
448	When we are talking about investing on our future generations, cost should be the least important thing. The extra expense can be paid off in several years, but a good education system can be last forever. I would like to pay higher tax for keeping these three schools.	10/19/2016 3:30 PM
449	I think majority of Wellesley parents want to keep all seven elementary schools open. I think parents are willing to pay a bit more to do that. Just like the high school, I could care less about keeping the historic parts of the elementary schools. I don't think they are that significant.	10/19/2016 2:46 PM
450	I think all of the considerations you are surveying about are critical. However, there are two clear priorities for any decision that is made about HHU. First, our children should be safe - in the school and getting to the school. This includes considerations of sidewalks, traffic, etc. and the soundness of the facility itself. Second, we cannot sacrifice the quality of education. Everything else should be negotiable in terms of how many schools, ability to maintain historical character, impact to commuters, and expenses. We have to strike a balance but ensure we are making decisions that put the students first over any other interests.	10/19/2016 2:22 PM
451	I would not support any plan that closed a school. I was very involved with WPS the year after three schools were closed in the 1980s and it was a trauma for this town. That happened because of an extreme enrollment drop-- from a senior class of 550 to 300. Many teachers were laid off -- it was drastic. Not like what you are seeing today. Closing Phillips and warren particularly was so disruptive to those neighborhoods that folks here in town still are angry about the loss of their neighborhood school. The closing of Phillips was particularly difficult because it had a very very strong school culture, similar to how it is at Hardy. Some schools develop an identity that has to be respected. Hardy has it. Hardy was ignored as long as I can remember. It really is the little engine that could. I had 8 children go through Upham, and we never had that indefinable thing that Hardy has. Closing a school has Huge ramifications on a town and support for schools. I don't believe you can get a ballot question approved to close Hardy and put millions on the tax rate. Supporters of Hardy, supporters of neighborhood schools, residents still angry about the last school closing (and they are still out there), and those just against spending - they will all bond together to vote no. What town meeting says will not matter. Schools must be completely United to get a project of this size through. There are question still to be answered before any plan comes to town meeting. It may not be in the charge but there need to be answers. What of future enrollment at Paws and where would those children go? And where does administration plan to stay. There needs to be clarity about those questions and not a suspicion that once this project is done that the town will then be presented with further needs for paws and administration. It all needs to be out there. Lastly, I believe this decision goes to who we are as a town. I believe our small elementary schools in our very well defined neighborhoods are part of our identity. I sold real estate for many years in area towns. No question people bought here for many reasons-- our town center, our classic homes, our train stations, but mostly for our schools and our neighborhoods. They could afford wellesley or weston, but wellesley would win for our neighborhoods with their intimate schools. Many In Weston go to private schools for many reasons, but the big one is they want 'small'. You can get all bogged down in numbers and projections. What you cannot quantify is what makes wellesley the desirable place to live that it is. What identifies us. Why does the town have such a strong bond with the schools and keep supporting them. It is a fragile thing and I urge you to be careful in any recommendation that could fracture that support.	10/19/2016 2:21 PM
452	as a long time senior living in town over fifty years we need tax breaks . our income is limited .we paid our dues in years past we should not be asked to finance another full share of upgrading schools . john f crowley	10/19/2016 2:13 PM
453	As to traffic - a lot is caused by parents picking up kids by car. In the "old" days that was rare and kids walked or biked to school. What percent do that now throughout the year?	10/19/2016 2:10 PM
454	Right now, my child (2.5 yo) lives within walking distance of Bates. My concern is that we will be re-districted to another school.	10/19/2016 12:46 PM
455	Upham is currently a quiet gem of a neighborhood. I will gladly pay more taxes to renovate the Upham school, so long as it is in the current location and that its size does not exceed 18 sections. Smaller schools are better for students. I strongly oppose larger schools. 18 sections will keep extra traffic to the minimum. I strongly oppose the plan to build a huge school where the forest and hill are now. That would loom over many houses and destroy the quiet, suburban feel or the neighborhood. Such a school belongs in a city, not a suburb. I also strongly oppose the destruction of the forested hill and ledge. That would be extremely costly and noisy for a long time. But mostly I oppose destroying irreplaceable and beautiful green space. It makes no sense to destroy it. We don't have much green space left! Build where the school is now.	10/19/2016 12:44 PM

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456	<p>Children deserve the best education. We cannot do so with the facility that is about to fall apart and the work and cost required to bring it to, let's say, Sprague level of facility is not trivial and especially if we are talking about three school buildings, that would be enormous. I understand that some people are attached to the historic character of those buildings, but we need to also be realistic about the immediate and long term cost. Some people seem to believe that 90+ year old building is still usable with minimum renovation, and I do not believe so. We either have to invest significantly so that it can withstand another 90+ years, or we will have to keep patching the work every few years just to maintain the building. That would be disturbing to children and it also financially does not make sense. I already feel that, our schools are walkable for some, but not for many, and we already have unbalanced distribution of school district (more elementary schools are in south of route 9). We should NOT make decision based on the emotional plea from some people currently living around the school that is proposed to be demolished. I understand that they fear their real estate value may go down, but if Wellesley, as a town, offers the best available education for all elementary students regardless of school district, then the real estate value will not be a concern, I believe. What most important is, we should offer the very best to our children.</p>	10/19/2016 12:16 PM
457	<p>Excellent neighborhood schools were the major reason we moved to Wellesley. Dramatically changing this model will negatively impact the nature of living in this town.</p>	10/19/2016 12:06 PM
458	<p>School building condition is important for kids' learning for sure, but not as critical as good teachers/staff and programs. I rather to see the town/school system spend more money on hiring teachers and improving STEM curriculum if possible.</p>	10/19/2016 12:05 PM
459	<p>Smaller neighborhood schools is a significant factor in driving real estate decisions to move to Wellesley and in picking a specific neighborhood. These schools act as a defining anchor to the local community and become a basis of local community. Losing a school would effect real estate values, increase traffic and congestion in the remaining locals and effect the quality of education given the larger size of the new schools. While renovation of existing schools does not seem to be actively on the table it does represent a viable alternative. Wasting 5-8 million dollars cracking ledge at Upham is a waste of taxpayer money that could be more valuably spent on buildings and children's education.</p>	10/19/2016 12:02 PM
460	<p>It is important that the right decision be made and not be driven by timeline to finish in early Dec. if that is not workable. At this time, if we had to do only two schools, Hardy and Hunnewell would be my choice... Upham site is really not suitable for a larger school... blasting to build would be a nightmare for the neighborhood and because of where it is situated way off the beaten path, a larger school would be a traffic concern. Not sure two schools would really show much decline in operating costs... one less principal but can't imagine much else... the strength and cohesiveness of a school community is also something to consider in the "neighborhood" model, not just proximity or walkability to school... It was hard to answer the No 40 question - I think it should be considered but not at all costs .. hard to say yes without some specifics... Walkability is nice but as I observe, many people just don't do it and probably wouldn't even if conditions were better. Also, question on reno to minimum vs best standards, leaves out Schofield and Fiske who got the minimum (better than they were) but certainly deserve best if that is the goal. No question re grandparents of children in schools... My husband and I are huge supporters of education and believe investment is critical.. just want it done wisely and well ...</p>	10/19/2016 12:01 PM
461	<p>I don't have a problem with "traffic" that is school traffic on surrounding neighborhood streets at pickup and drop off. I do have an objection to traffic that impedes the regular flow on main streets, such as Weston Road. If there is a school at Hardy, need lots of queuing and parking space on premises. There is not enough at WHS.</p>	10/19/2016 11:54 AM
462	<p>I believe all the schools should be kept</p>	10/19/2016 11:53 AM
463	<p>Wellesley taxation has crossed the bridge of reasonableness. Older residents have a right not to have to pay for every whim of young parents who feel entitled to have their every need catered to for their own convenience. A town consists of all people not just those who have elementary aged children. We should all be able to enjoy the town, have good services and pay a fair and reasonable amount for said services. We cannot drain all of our resources for elementary schools to the point of driving out residents who either don't have children in elementary school or are empty nesters. The all day kindergarten expense was bad enough but this will cross the line of reasonableness as far as expenses. It is not a bottomless pit of money for most families.</p>	10/19/2016 11:52 AM
464	<p>I think question #13 is poorly written and I'm really unsure what the intent of that question is?</p>	10/19/2016 11:51 AM
465	<p>I own a home in town and am a property tax payer in Wellesley.</p>	10/19/2016 11:42 AM
466	<p>I found some of the questions on the survey to be a little bit confusing. My understanding of this process was that there is the potential for one of these schools to close, with two schools being rebuilt or renovated. After this process, redistricting would take place. In my mind, this is a bit different than closing one school and consolidating those students into the other two schools. When I look at a map of town and current districts, it seems that there are many opportunities to improve "neighborhood" zones around schools. I strongly support neighborhood schools, but don't feel that 7 is a magic and unchangeable number of schools. I am glad that we don't still have 12 tiny neighborhood schools! Also, I answered Q16 to say that 3 is the optimal number of classrooms per grade, but I would have like an option to indicate 3 - 4. I think that 4 is preferable to 2. We've experienced grades with 2 and 3 sections at Hunnewell during our time there and two sections has led to some social challenges.</p>	10/19/2016 11:41 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

467	<p>RE: question about school size based on number of sections/number of students--I did not like the choices. It is my understanding that the current three schools have 14 sections. The School Department has stated a preference for a minimum of 18 sections (3 times 6) for a new school, which might be more than we need for three schools. Two sections per grade in a school is 2 x 6, or 12 sections, which is too small. I think there needs to be a compromise on the number of sections for each of the three schools somewhere between 14 and 16. RE: Hunnewell tree and historic section. I do not know how old or healthy the tree is currently but it may not have more years left (has a tree expert looked at it's current status and how construction around it would affect it?) and I do not think the Hunnewell project should be constrained on a small building site in order to protect it if work arounds are not satisfactory (and I love trees!) A new tree could be planted to replace it, too. And slices of the old tree could be preserved for display and/or even raffled off as a fund raiser. As for the Hunnewell historic section, it is not as visible to as the Hardy school front, and immediate abutters are office buildings/parking lots. Couldn't we replicate the historic architectural elements in a new Hunnewell in order to give the architects more options in using a small building area? RE: Upham-- I think that only a small amount of ledge or trees should be removed in order to expand or rebuild Upham in its current location.</p>	10/19/2016 11:41 AM
468	<p>I have not yet studied the issues closely so my responses are somewhat "off the cuff" and subject to change once there is a final plan and I have reviewed all arguments for and against.</p>	10/19/2016 11:39 AM
469	<p>50% of the children who attend Wellesley Public Schools live NORTH of Route 9. There needs to be a plan to accommodate all elementary school children NORTH of Route 9, eliminating any need for children to have to cross that treacherous road. Any plan which consolidates children at a greater number of schools SOUTH of Route 9 is impractical and unjust. For those of us who have to send our 10 and 11 year olds out each day to cross this road, we know that it is only a matter of time before something devastating happens. For a town such as Wellesley, this is shocking. BUT, be that as it may, the only scenarios that would be acceptable to the folks who live north of Route 9, would be to either keep all 3, or consolidate into two renovations/rebuilds with Upham being one of them.</p>	10/19/2016 11:38 AM
470	<p>The Upham neighborhood CAN NOT support a school that is significantly larger than the current one. (It could manage a 3 classroom per grade model.) The streets are not designed for the traffic. I will not support a significantly larger UPHAM. Nor will I support the removal of the ledge and the trees behind Upham. That is a disgrace to change our neighborhood to a traffic situation like Weston Road. I did not buy a piece of property on Weston Road. I can not believe you would even consider this an option. Our streets can barely hold the traffic for Upham right now. Neighborhood schools are what this town is famous for. Do not take that away. Little children identify with their school - somewhere where they can walk to, that is not too big, and that is part of their neighborhood. Busing would be a terrible idea for elementary children in Wellesley. Children learn better in a smaller environment.</p>	10/19/2016 11:37 AM
471	<p>1. Keep the three schools in question on their current sites and use temporary class rooms on the current site during the transitions . 2. Renovate any part of these "educational institutions" that is needed for the next 20-25 years. 3. Inform residents exactly what "educational improvements" will be achieved by any changes made. The entire discussion has been about the physical facilities; locations; costs; etc. All of these, of course are legitimate. However, I have not heard a single discussion or even mention, regarding how any changes will benefit and enhance the student's learning. Shouldn't that come first?!! 4. Child safety is a major and legitimate concern for Parents. Are there better solutions from other towns, which might also help Wellesley? 5. Continue concern for maintaining natural settings and being "Green." However, these schools are much more important than using some parts of surrounding woods.</p>	10/19/2016 11:34 AM
472	<p>Improved, continuous, bikeable sidewalks are more important to me for school accessibility than anything else.</p>	10/19/2016 11:16 AM
473	<p>I feel strongly that the decision should be based on what will be best to maintain the highest quality of elementary education for Wellesley students. I do not believe that moving Hardy will destroy the neighborhood feel of the school. A school is more than the physical building.</p>	10/19/2016 11:00 AM
474	<p>While I am not excited about the idea of living through construction, the committee should focus on the best programming for the students even if it means building a larger school either on the Upham site or the North 40.</p>	10/19/2016 10:58 AM
475	<p>The hardy school is one of the best academic performance elementary school. It's closely associated with its appropriate school size. The neighborhood around hardy benefit from its walkable distance. Plz keep it open and perform the necessary renovation without over-doing it. After all, it's the people ( the teacher, staff) to make the school a good quality school, not the building itself.</p>	10/19/2016 10:41 AM
476	<p>I found several of the questions did not offer enough choices in the suggested answers. This is a nuanced discussion with perhaps 100 shades of gray. I can't even scroll back to see what my answers were to each question, but I moved to Wellesley 25+ years ago and never considered relation to a school (walkability) then, because we didn't. There were very few houses on the market and I had virtually no choice. Traffic is a major concern, but it always has been in town. No matter what your eventual choice is, there will be traffic concerns. Some of my answers might change if this were a discussion rather than a questionnaire. There should be room for give and take...</p>	10/19/2016 10:34 AM
477	<p>We moved to the Hardy School neighborhood with school walkability being a MAJOR decision factor. We discovered the plan to close Hardy School a month after we moved in. I'm not sure Wellesley realizes what it has with these neighborhood schools! Please keep them open.</p>	10/19/2016 9:54 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

478	I served on Advisory's school's subcommittee for three years. I came to believe that the WPS and School Committee did a very good job of managing costs throughout the system within the constraints imposed on them. However, operating so many elementary schools imposed significant costs on the system that appeared to have little relationship to educational value or to the student experience. In particular, there were dramatic differences in elementary class sizes from school to school because the WPS could only allocate students within districts. This increased the number of classrooms and teachers needed, as the School Committee tried to live within the class size guidelines. Additionally, the cost of separate administrative staff in each school, as well as the expense of various infrastructural elements (multiple buildings, multiple bus routes, multiple lunch deliveries, etc.) wasted scarce resources with no corresponding increase in educational value.	10/19/2016 9:37 AM
479	Hardy should be completely razed and rebuilt, in my opinion. I have no feelings for the history of the building. It's an ideal site for a new school, which could be set back from the road, and a driveway loop could be placed deeper into the site if needed. I'd hate to see Hardy's land used for a housing development, esp. dense housing in what's already one of the densest areas of Wellesley. Weston Road simply cannot absorb more daily traffic. Schools actually do not generate much traffic. For 20 minutes twice a day, 180 days a year, there is an increase in school-related traffic. A housing development at the Hardy site would increase traffic at all times of day throughout the entire year. The road cannot support this. It is narrow, and the utility poles are too close to allow for expansion.	10/19/2016 9:08 AM
480	Support of other hypothetical plans (i.e. building in the North 40, or demolishing historic structures) would be highly contingent on a thorough explanation of the details of that plan and the rationale for the choice. Explanations have been deficient so far, and that must be remedied in any attempt to move forward.	10/19/2016 9:07 AM
481	The benchmark cost of \$90 to \$95 million for renovating the Wellesley elementary schools is truly excessive. This does not help the children and it would impose a significant tax burden on town residents. Cheaper alternatives that don't involve closing a school (Hardy) and building a large new school (Upham) should be pursued. As an official "Tree City", it would be wildly ironic and outrageous to even consider cutting down the trees in the area behind Upham.	10/19/2016 8:40 AM
482	I don't think anyone who lives on Manor/Mayo/Overbrook side can consider any of these schools as "Neighborhood" schools. More than anything else I would hate to see the wonderful community that has been built around the "hardy" school be destroyed.	10/19/2016 8:28 AM
483	We are abutters to Hardy and care very much about the traffic pattern and what will be replaced there.	10/19/2016 7:54 AM
484	Please renovate, preserve existing spaces and redistrict as needed. Keep costs down and keep balance between the quality of the facilities in the elementary schools. Don't do what Newton did: renovate old schools in more modest neighborhoods and put the fanciest newest schools in the wealthiest districts (Angier/Waban).	10/19/2016 7:54 AM
485	This survey is biased and questions lead to preference for a three school option and preservation of existing buildings and districts. The financial impacts both for construction and operating costs of three schools is not sustainable. Education may be delivered quite differently in the future and those trends and considerations should be a factor. If technology infrastructure continues to be a cost to sustain buildings, then consolidation of buildings to maximize ability to install updates is a large factor. Medium size schools with 3-4 units per grade allow for flexibility in student assignments that are currently lacking in our very small schools. Kids are adaptable to whatever situation is presented. They don't factor in "what if" the school were smaller. Maintaining small class size within the building and creating a supportive community for the school creates a culture that is nurturing for the students and families and will support positive educational outcomes. School across the country in high performing districts have larger sizes and good outcomes. Wellesley used to have 8 classroom schools, moved to 12-14 room schools and now should grow to 18-20 rooms to support modern pedagogical techniques.	10/19/2016 7:51 AM
486	The reason we moved to Wellesley was because of the reputation, the neighborhood schools, and the small class sizes.	10/19/2016 7:33 AM
487	As someone who is arms' length from the HHU project (not at an impacted school), I find the last three questions a bit leading. There is little detail or optionality on the first two (Upham, North 40) and a lot of permutations of the Hardy options. I think this may skew your responses.	10/19/2016 7:33 AM
488	Renovate the historic parts of the Hardy and Hunnewell and build additions at all 3. Sprague is a good model for Hardy and Hunnewell. Bates is a good model for Upham. If the town won't need all 3 schools then close one of them. It's difficult but in the end best for the kids and educators if they don't live through construction and a good school, no matter where it is, will be wonderful for the kids.	10/19/2016 7:07 AM
489	There seems to be no slowing down in the construction of new homes in Wellesley. I've heard that national studies have been done to predict future enrollments. I believe that these national studies cannot be relied upon as the economy in other parts of the county cannot be compared to that of our here in the Boston area, particularly with the housing market. Jobs are being created, people are moving into this area and there is no end in sight.	10/19/2016 7:04 AM
490	I would fight to block the use of any religious space for swing space. It would impact my constitutional right of separation of church and state.	10/19/2016 6:32 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

491	I moved to Wellesley so my kids could walk to the neighborhood school. We walk to school with our neighbors. I have 4 children in the schools. I would be very upset if they were no longer able to walk.	10/19/2016 6:18 AM
492	Sure. I didn't answer them because a yes/no option was pretty bare. If you are going to cut down trees you should be planting trees; if the North 40 site loses 10 acres to become a great neighborhood school, then the current Hardy site should become forest/community gardens... I am not aware of Upham's geography, but if you take down trees to build a school, then when you demolish the old school you should be planting trees.	10/19/2016 6:17 AM
493	We bought chose Wellesley and chose our house specifically because of its "walk to school" location. We believe strongly in the neighborhood schools. If we wanted large schools, we could have moved to other towns like Weston, Dover, Natick.	10/19/2016 5:39 AM
494	No one loves Upham. The parents who live in Upham barely care about the school. Most parents there are rich enough to send kids to private school. Hardy has a robust school environment that should be maintained. Keep all schools or close Upham.	10/19/2016 12:48 AM
495	Walkability should be based on how far a kindergartener can walk to school. In terms of biking, I only included 1 mile as an acceptable distance because 3/4 of a mile wasn't included. One mile is borderline too far for a young child cycling to/from school.	10/19/2016 12:28 AM
496	I did not rule out demolishing Hunnewell and Hardy but I would ask that preservation be a top priority and demolition a very last resort. I realize we cannot have everything, but those brick schools are charming from the outside. Hardy especially fits with the character of the neighborhood.	10/18/2016 11:56 PM
497	It isn't all about the building!! With declining elementary enrollment thought should be given to how the buildings will be utilized in the future. Wellesley has always been about neighborhood schools, and that shouldn't be lost.	10/18/2016 11:43 PM
498	Question 12 was difficult to answer. There is a big difference in the minimum required to update compared to what is considered meeting modern educational standards.	10/18/2016 11:28 PM
499	Please do not eliminate the Hardy school. I can't speak to the other schools but since we are zoned for Hardy and I have two kids there, I would hate to lose such a special school that is close to our home. All the Wellesley schools should be modern and up to date. All renovations or new construction should be competitively priced and offered to competing firms with penalties if the projects are late or over budget. I don't want extra tax burden. Wellesley already makes its residents pay for so many things (garbage, school bus, ipads for middle school students, school supplies which should be standard but are provided by the parents) that many towns include for free. The town should find extra resources or raise private monies to help pay for the necessary renovations or new construction. However, it is important to keep all the schools and not eliminate any. Housing prices will go down too if a certain neighborhood isn't close to an elementary school. Wellesley is known for its good public schools but parents are paying for a lot already. Please keep Hardy. It is a beautiful site and so convenient for so many residents. You could keep the historic part of the building and build a new school on the site so you would maintain the history while also bringing the school up to date.	10/18/2016 11:19 PM
500	Please keep all schools. Do not close any of them!	10/18/2016 10:58 PM
501	I can appreciate how complicated many of these issues are and the answers are not black and white.	10/18/2016 10:44 PM
502	I think it will be very unfortunate if Wellesley closes one of the HHU schools. People in Wellesley still recall the sadness associated with closing schools over 30 years ago. There is no compelling reason for closing one of the HHU schools. The project is expensive, but it is expensive no matter what. I believe we are better off rebuilding all 3 schools. This approach provides us with flexible, modern space that will serve varying needs (e.g., higher than expected enrollment or PAWS) for the long term horizon. It is penny-wise and pound foolish to close a school. People move to this town for small, neighborhood schools. It is good education and a good, flexible, long-term investment.	10/18/2016 10:43 PM
503	It is time to move on and build modern schools. Holding on to historical parts of Hunnewell or Hardy serves no purpose except to increase expenses and hinder modern educational uses. While the tree at Hunnewell is historic, it won't live forever anyway and is a spurious argument.	10/18/2016 10:32 PM
504	I could support building new schools on the Upham or North 40 sites if they were 18-classroom schools and the existing Upham School could be swing space, as many trees as possible were saved, and new trees were planted. The North 40, though, is not my first choice for a school location, as it's close to both Hardy and Hunnewell and there are other pressing needs for the land.	10/18/2016 10:30 PM
505	The historic parts of the schools are precious, but not as important as keeping a small, neighborhood school on the same site. I think if we keep the schools small, we can also preserve as many trees as possible.	10/18/2016 10:09 PM
506	Hunnewell has a long standing good culture. That needs to be preserved by keeping the school intact at its present location.	10/18/2016 10:01 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

507	I think it is important for the school/parent community to show that we can "tighten our belts" when required so when we come to town to ask for money for education we can do so saying we have compromised when we had to. It would be lovely in an ideal world to renovate all three schools but I feel that is asking a lot of the greater community.	10/18/2016 9:58 PM
508	My children attended private school. My grandchildren are attending Well. public schools and we have been very impressed with the quality of the experience--especially being able to walk to their neighborhood school and have a neighborhood community that supports each other. That the children have neighborhood friends in the elementary grades is very important to me as my children did NOT have that experience. The Hardy school and community is a fine example of the spirit that enriches this town. As this is an entry level area for housing the fact of having an excellent school with very happy and dedicated faculty and families will help to maintain diversity in the school system which should lead to better acceptance of the other throughout this town. I do not agree that 2 larger schools are beneficial to children's education. More intimate size is more conducive to camaraderie of teachers , students, parents and staff.	10/18/2016 9:46 PM
509	I do not fully understand the impact of building a school on the North 40. Would this be a 7th school and Hardy or Hunnewell would close? It's difficult to answer that question without more details. The traffic question doesn't clarify what would be studied. Would traffic studies be done with a larger Upham or would the traffic studies only be done in the Hardy area?	10/18/2016 9:42 PM
510	Question 13: \$645-\$680 for how long? Is this the annual cost of a 10 year bond? Question 18: my answer is based on the age of my child? K-1 no walking. 2-5 walking. Question 18 and 19: "choose all that apply" does not make sense for the question. Seems only on should be chosen.	10/18/2016 9:36 PM
511	I feel neighborhood schools are a very important part of our town.	10/18/2016 9:34 PM
512	Are you looking at making sure that the new schools address the potential of including PAWS in the neighborhood schools? I would not be pleased to find out that we are planning school size in a vacuum and then will be faced with separate decisions about pre-school. When you present your recommendation will it focus on building schools that meet the educational needs over the next several decades? I did not see that in the ranking of how the committee should rank factors in their assessment. There are fewer kids in the schools yet it seems we increasingly need more space in the school buildings to educate fewer kids. If we have more space needs per kid, it seems we should be planning expansion space in the schools for increased PAWS enrollment as well as kids with need. It also seems the frequency of closing classes is accelerating at the elementary schools, which seems a bit inconsistent with the fact we are going to need the same or less space in the future. Are the plans taking into account the educational impact of smaller vs larger schools? Recent test reports in the paper make it look like larger schools in Wellesley (Sprague) are less effective in educating our children successfully. Will the study look at the potential to straighten out the Sprague district lines? Maybe that larger school could be made a little more intimate in size for the grades and used as a central location for special programs. I tried to read the enrollment predictions and found them difficult. Did you take into account the trend that seems pretty popular of starting kids later rather than when they are age eligible, families moving to town when their kids are old enough for school, families that rent for our school system, and adoptions? Finally, I found a lot of the questions worded in a way that didn't capture my feelings. Thank you for your time.	10/18/2016 9:33 PM
513	For question 16, I would support 200-400 students. Choosing one range does not allow for easy express my opinion.	10/18/2016 9:09 PM
514	I do not understand why Wellesley does not have solar panels on any of our public buildings!	10/18/2016 9:06 PM
515	Regular maintenance of all building systems (heating, air conditioning, roofing, plumbing) and regular up keep should serve to minimize the need for major changes to schools that require renovation remodeling or expansion of 3 schools at the same time.	10/18/2016 9:04 PM
516	While 3 sections per school is preferable, 2 sections per school is also acceptable. The question should have allowed such clarification. When selecting the desired school size, it would be very helpful to know the current enrollment of all the schools to provide a sense of scale.	10/18/2016 8:40 PM
517	I disagree with the idea that our schools are not adequate for a good education, excepting of course work that needs to be done to make them safe and secure. Further, the parents at Hardy have not asked for any unusual improvements—just keep the building safe, dry and warm. Good schools are a result of students ready and willing to learn (the parents job), good teachers (of which we have many) and a reasonable curriculum (which is increasingly dictated by forces outside the community). Having community-based elementary schools is much more important to our town than having the latest shiny building.	10/18/2016 8:15 PM
518	As a Town Meeting member, I will say that I will not support an override on this project if there are less than three (3) schools. Also these modifications need to be for facilities of 400 or less students and eighteen (18) or less sections. In a declining enrollment years we have to build in a conservative way, with an eye on the future, which history has shown us can change to increasing enrollments at any time. Walking to school is the social fabric of the Wellesley neighborhoods and needs to be preserved. Thank You for your service to our community.	10/18/2016 8:15 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

519	I would have liked an option to say I understand the educational reasons for having 18-24 classrooms on a school; demolition of historic parts of buildings is hard to react to without having the full context. Obviously I'd prefer to maintain the historic nature of the buildings but everything has to be weighed in order to decide. Same thing with cost. I can't say I'd support another \$30-40k of expense in a vacuum - I'd have to know exactly why we'd be building more school capacity than we need based on enrollment projections and a healthy buffer. It would have to be pretty persuasive.	10/18/2016 7:54 PM
520	I have concerns about the potential parking deck next to the library. I have huge concerns about the removal of ledge and trees at the Upham site.	10/18/2016 7:50 PM
521	Wellesley has been through school closings, consolidations and redistricting before and it hasn't impacted the quality of education our children receive. I'm sure parents were upset when Warren, Brown, Kingsbury and Perrin closed and I know many parents opposed redistricting when Sprague reopened. Shifting demographics are a fact of life and as long as we maintain a school system with multiple elementary schools, parents need to accept these changes. As an aside, the argument in favor of keeping these schools open so kids can walk is misleading. Very few children walk to school on a regular basis year-round. Traffic patterns can attest to that!	10/18/2016 7:40 PM
522	I am a bit disappointed in the HHU Committee hiring an outside PR firm to engage with the community versus the Committee going out into the community itself. One large public forum on 10/27 is very different from how previous school building projects were presented to the to the community (small forums at each elementary school with large meetings for the greater community).	10/18/2016 7:30 PM
523	We were redistricted during my children's tenure at schools and lived through the middle school and high school construction. I think maximizing educational concerns is the highest priority while trying to minimize any one part of town feeling like it is without a neighborhood school. Somehow trying to get people out of their cars and into buses or walking would help the town overall.	10/18/2016 7:21 PM
524	The main priority should be creating the best educational environment for the children of our community. Costs need to be managed and consideration needs to be given to the market value of the available land (ex: selling the Upham land to a developer). It makes zero sense to have a renovated Upham so close to a renovated Bates. Our town has traffic issues which extend beyond this decision.	10/18/2016 7:11 PM
525	Children should be able to walk to a neighborhood school and use the school for athletic activities, events and play areas. If the town had had a master plan for maintaining these buildings we would not be in this mess.	10/18/2016 6:35 PM
526	We moved to our neighborhood specifically to send our kids to Hunnewell and walk them to school. The small size of the schools is a major factor.	10/18/2016 6:27 PM
527	Close Hardy Update Hunnewell and Upham. Easy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	10/18/2016 6:26 PM
528	Not enough information yet to have an opinion on a final plan	10/18/2016 6:04 PM
529	I would like to see good data about the cost to renovate/replace all three schools. I would also like answers to some of the questions that have been raised about enrollment and how large swings (either up or down) from projected values would impact future need to build/consolidate. I would be disappointed to see a school close only to have to re-open it ten years later. (I grew up in Wellesley when there were 12 elementary schools and witnessed the re-opening of Sprague.) I am willing to spend extra tax dollars for the three school scenario if that is the basic sticking point driving consolidation. I would like to see the decision about whether to keep three schools or consolidate to two be a town-wide decision included in the Unified Plan. Should the town support a three school model, there would have to be a collective acknowledgment by the School Committee, Board of Selectmen and Executive Director that additional funds for the third school would need to be included as an ongoing part of the annual operating budget.	10/18/2016 6:00 PM
530	I will likely support the HHU decision on this one at Town Meeting. I remember when elementary schools were redistricted many years ago. It was a very hard time, but it was a sacrifice we needed to make for the system to work then. Populations cycle and change. We need to change with them and build and renovate in cost effective ways.	10/18/2016 5:57 PM
531	The big issue here is fiscal accountability. I do not think we need to spend \$90 million to update schools. This is not necessary. We should be able to do this for a lot less. Renovate the existing buildings. Maybe an addition. Everything in Wellesley does not need to be gold plated.	10/18/2016 5:55 PM
532	I have lived in this town for over 20 years. About 15 years ago, we had just 6 elementary schools that were unable to accommodate the growing student census which prompted the reopening of Sprague. While I have grown sensitive to the many increases in our tax rate (due, in large part, to school initiatives), I am concerned about the idea of closing one of the elementary schools. If there is nothing more we can learn from the history of this town, our school census will wax and wane over the years. There must be more cost effective solutions that don't require the closing and then reopening of our elementary schools.	10/18/2016 5:46 PM
533	The location and quality of Hunnewell School was the most important factor in our decision to locate in this section of Wellesley. Would be very sorry if it were closed, even though our last child just moved on to WMS. Having a local school is very important to the neighborhood.	10/18/2016 5:41 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

534	We need a new school built first on the North 40. Construction of a new school adjacent to an operating school will affect the learning environment, and therefore the all important test scores, of any student stuck there for years of construction. Construction of a new school adjacent to an operating school will deprive students of important open space and recreational opportunities for the years the schools operate simultaneously.	10/18/2016 5:41 PM
535	I find the question regarding how much more I would be willing to pay confusing because I am not sure those are the correct numbers to base the information off of. There have been so many new plans presented.	10/18/2016 5:37 PM
536	Hardy and Upham are dirty and in need of some paint RIGHT now!!!! Not a lot of money!!!! Both schools do not have enough or any small spaces for small group learning. There is NO sunlight in many of the rooms....cold and dismal.	10/18/2016 5:36 PM
537	I did not like your question regarding the definition of a neighborhood school. It seems poorly designed in that the results could easily be misleading. I think the answer to the question obvious and so I question the motivation behind asking the question. Nonetheless, my definition: A neighborhood school is a school located within a few walkable blocks that all of the kids in the neighborhood attend. How large of an area would the ideal definition of "a neighborhood" be if we could design our town from scratch? Maybe a ten block by ten block area with the school located in the middle.	10/18/2016 5:36 PM
538	My child went to Fiske. Later, we moved to what was the Hunnewell district. I don't know if I'm still in the Hunnewell district or maybe in Sprague now. I don't think we should spend a fortune on renovations/rebuilding, but I do think that we should try to end up with schools that will last and be of good quality.	10/18/2016 5:35 PM
539	I trust the School District Administration to have the best interests of students and faculty in their decisions. I don't think we should be spending excessive time and money questioning their professional, researched proposals. Not everyone is going to be happy. I think some of the questions on this survey were difficult to answer because the way they were asked seemed skewed to get responses in favor of certain positions.	10/18/2016 5:33 PM
540	I think the community needs to know if the long term plan is to create a model in which the schools are broken down into a K-1 school, 2-3 school, and 4-5 school. Schofield and Fiske will need to be improved in the next ten years and if there is one mega school; it is going to present an interesting future for our town. I think we need to see actual numbers of all the projections. I strongly oppose paying the Catholic Church to renovate and educate Wellesley Public School Children .	10/18/2016 5:30 PM
541	In my opinion as a retired educator, small schools and small class size are extremely important. Keeping costs under control is also an issue. Building large, new schools or expanding small schools is not something I support.	10/18/2016 5:29 PM
542	The area by North 40 is already quite congested with traffic. A school there would only make it worse.	10/18/2016 5:28 PM
543	We lived in Weston during the rebuild of the Middle school. It was successfully achieved in a non - impactful way by building a brand new, state of the art school directly in front of the old one. Students continued to attend classes at the old school and traffic was minimally impacted. I strongly urge the Wellesley team to study that model and meet with the team in Weston for more information, ideas etc...	10/18/2016 5:22 PM
544	This whole process has highlighted the divisiveness of having neighborhood schools. Build a large school on the North 40, bus kids to school. Not only is this more efficient, but programming would be enhanced and more equally distributed. Small class sizes are critical, but small schools are not.	10/18/2016 5:17 PM

# Question 27

The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

**Q27 Do you have any other thoughts about the HHU project that you would like to share with us?**

Answered: 598 Skipped: 1,467

#	Responses	Date
1	You might get more useful results if you didn't ask biased and leading questions	11/1/2016 11:55 PM
2	Having had 2 children attend Hardy for their entire elementary education , I value the accessibility to the school and the sense of family and community with the staff in the neighborhood setting . The redistricting will increase traffic thru certain neighborhoods.	11/1/2016 11:34 PM
3	I am opposed to closing a school, especially Hardy, even though my child went to Hunnewell. I am also opposed to taking down part of the forest and building on the North Forty for several reasons. The world needs more open space, every tree is precious and does work for us every day, and we already have a perfectly good site at Hardy. Also, I would be very opposed to doing anything that would endanger the beautiful old oak in the courtyard at Hunnewell. There is a move afoot to plant a tree for every human on earth to help combat climate change, and I believe we should all take it upon ourselves to avoid taking down trees in the first place, especially for 'convenience' in building. Also I would be very opposed to blasting the ledge and taking down the forest at Upham. I believe the earth and all its living things are sacred, and also very much under siege right now. Though Wellesley seems removed from threat of dire air pollution, it is my understanding that the town purchased the North Forty for open space and access to nature. Even though we are not on the most endangered front line, I believe we should consider sustainability and climate change in every decision we make!	11/1/2016 11:23 PM
4	I encourage the Committee to be transparent about the limitations of self-selective forms of feedback. They are useful, undoubtedly, but I hope your recommendations are driven more by student need than any other metric.	11/1/2016 11:18 PM
5	While this is an emotional issue for many people in town, I believe many parents have taken up the cause without considering the key variables impacting education quality and anchoring on the concept of "neighborhood schools". Instead of weighing whether students are 500 feet (my case) from the school or 1.5 miles, we should be focused on optimizing around variables that most impact quality of education.	11/1/2016 10:50 PM
6	I believe that it does not make sense to close Hardy because of traffic on Weston Road. Many commuters and drivers already avoid Weston Road because of traffic concerns, and removing the schools will encourage commuters to drive through Wellesley on Weston Road. If this occurs, the community will lose the benefit of an excellent neighborhood school and end up with worse traffic. The plan to increase student population at Upham will increase traffic, because the residential streets around Upham are not designed for greater traffic. Overall, traffic in Wellesley would probably increase as more parents are driving their kids to their new schools.	11/1/2016 10:24 PM
7	Close one of the three schools and focus attention on two well equipped, but slightly larger, elementary schools. People can no longer expect to walk to a neighborhood elementary school. My kids lived more than two miles from Fiske; they took the bus and had a great experience. If it's important for your kids to walk, then buy near the school and move when they are older as many folks I know have done.	11/1/2016 10:19 PM
8	Traffic around the Hardy school is quite problematic when school lets out - so I wouldn't be terribly upset if that was the school that had to close. Or if a new school is rebuilt there, there should be an improved traffic plan to alleviate the congestion on Weston Road.	11/1/2016 10:14 PM
9	Residents move to Wellesley for the small schools (18 sections or less)...why mess with the biggest driver of people moving to town? All WPS's should be included in the decision...PAWS as well as the other 4 schools. A consolidation will impact the other 4 schools down the road yet they largely do not know about this issue.	11/1/2016 10:11 PM
10	I feel that unless there is overwhelming, indisputable evidence to the contrary, a school should not be closed. The enrollment decline and operational savings are not convincing and predictable enough to be the basis for a school closure. Please deal with one school at a time, hoping to possibly catch some state funding along the way. Thanks!	11/1/2016 9:53 PM
11	300-400 students and 18 sections per school should be the maximum! Wellesley has never had more and does not want more. PAWS growth is an important WPS issue and should be part of the Master Plan.	11/1/2016 9:50 PM
12	The North 40 as a school site will involve significant disruption and increase travel and congestion and fossil fuel usage. And likely result in an industrial scale elementary school devoid of any neighborhood elements. More cars and busses - that is not Wellesley Why not consider the Warren building as an interim school while construction is in progress. Why not apply prefabrication and Lean construction to expedite and significantly reduce the construction period	11/1/2016 9:42 PM

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13	All four of my children could be displaced from Hunnewell during the proposed renovation timeframe. It is important to us that our children feel a sense of community and connection to their school in the midst of upheaval and a bit of chaos.	11/1/2016 9:30 PM
14	I believe the town should commit to building a new school on the North 40, significantly rehabilitate the Hunnewell school, convert Hardy to recreational fields and much needed Town office and document storage space; Upham should be sold to a private developer to recoup some of the costs of the needed school projects.	11/1/2016 9:21 PM
15	I strongly believe that a small number of irresponsible parents from the Hardy school are attempting to use this survey to drive their own opinions that are fiscally irresponsible. One need only look at Facebook posts to understand how this propaganda is being driven. I can't move out of Wellesley fast enough.	11/1/2016 9:20 PM
16	I totally against HHU project. I think it's a total waste of tax payers money.	11/1/2016 9:19 PM
17	I personally do not want any bates families affected. I do not want our school to increase by more students and more classrooms. I like that everyone lives very close by and it's a small neighborhood school. I don't love the idea of more people coming and especially the idea of taking current Bates families and moving them to different schools. This would not only affect those moving to a new school but also the students who would stay and be without their friends. My preference would be to build modulars on the current campus of whatever school is being updated at a time so that again other schools are not being affected by this.	11/1/2016 9:00 PM
18	I feel strongly that keeping two schools on the Weston side of rt 9 is important for traffic flow and neighborhoods.	11/1/2016 8:13 PM
19	We have too many folks on the Eastern side of Cliff who go to Sprague. That is inefficient, but due to the closing of the old school on Garden (I think it was Brown). Once a school closes, it becomes very difficult and expensive to re-open, so any consolidation plans should be thoroughly reviewed and thought through with a long-term horizon.	11/1/2016 7:54 PM
20	I think that Wellesley needs to accept the fact that neighborhood schools are great in concept and at one time people did walk to school. Now so many families drive their children to school. When we redistricted the elementary schools in 2002, we lost the neighborhood school. Some families could walk and some families really couldn't walk to their "neighborhood school." I was a Town Meeting member for 12 years and I participated in numerous school construction projects. I also worked/ran override and debt exclusion campaigns for the schools and was involved in the PTO for all school levels. My children experienced the Bates construction, the middle school construction and the high school construction, so I speak from a great deal of experience. Bates was suppose to be a larger school as was Sprague but neighbors protested the size and traffic associated with the larger schools. Small elementary schools are nice but in the end, it really doesn't matter. High school matters. We feed these small elementary schools into the largest middle school in the state (many towns have multiple middle schools). Transition to middle school could be improved if students were used to a larger educational environment at the elementary level. With one less school there could be a reallocation of some of the administrative costs to educational needs. We need to stop being afraid of change.	11/1/2016 7:25 PM
21	Thanks for the chance to provide feedback.	11/1/2016 6:55 PM
22	Please keep all three schools open. Renovation instead of new construction, or a mixture, may allow the town to do this. Our children had such a wonderful, neighborhood school experience growing up, at Hardy, that I would wish that for all children, in Wellesley. It is what makes our town very special. Traffic has never really been a problem at Hardy. We've lived across from the school for 36 years and twice a day, for approximately 15 minutes, each time during drop off and pick up you have some cars parked on the side of the roads. It is a small price to pay for a neighborhood school. Lastly, what is the Master Plan for all this new land the Town has purchased.? Shouldn't this plan be developed and approved, by the voters, before we start tearing down existing schools? Let's keep our elementary school children in small schools so they can thrive during their younger years and prepare them for a larger school experience, at the middle school/high school.	11/1/2016 6:27 PM
23	The tax payers are being forced to pay for the children of the town. We cannot accept any more big bills when the educational people [illegible] us to spend for their pleasure. No more big taxes.	11/1/2016 5:31 PM
24	Please make sure we are thinking of our children first... quality of education and safety should be priority above all.	11/1/2016 5:02 PM
25	I probably should have understood this better before attempting the survey.	11/1/2016 4:49 PM
26	Hardy parents need to get over themselves. This project should be driven by our school and community needs. We had six schools for a number of years and our kids did great.	11/1/2016 4:43 PM
27	NO	11/1/2016 4:42 PM
28	It would be great if there could be a way that committee members can come to a common agreement. It appears there are some who feel it's 'my way or the highway' mentality. Please try to meet in the middle and do what is best for our children educationally - not what is best for real estate valuations, etc.	11/1/2016 3:51 PM

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29	The planning for this project should include consideration of bus service that is provided for the town. If consolidating schools results in more families being further from their assigned school, and if construction and operating costs are a motivation to consolidate schools, then any increases in costs to families to get their children to school should be considered. It is unfair for families who reside 1 to 2 miles from school to effectively pay more than others to send their children to school.	11/1/2016 3:15 PM
30	I am particularly fond of the tree at Hunnewell. My child,[NAME REDACTED], wrote a poem about it. I regret that I can't find my copy of it to share with you. I recall that she compared the school and the tree -- the students drawing nourishment from the school as the leaves draw nourishment from the tree. The late principal of Hunnewell, Ellen Cunniff, kept that poem on her wall for a long time. [NAME REDACTED]	11/1/2016 2:52 PM
31	It is not realistic to expect that our inventory of elementary schools should never change if our situations change (student populations, capital and operating costs, difficulty in equalizing class sizes, etc.). It is also unfair to expect all taxpayers to support inefficient school facility strategies. The change process is uncomfortable -- but several years later it becomes distant history.	11/1/2016 2:38 PM
32	I did not attend Wellesley public schools and do not and will not have children that will or have attended Wellesley public schools. I think senior citizens of Wellesley deserve a break on the continual building, refurbishment and renovation of schools within Wellesley because that drives up our taxes each time this is embarked upon and we derive no real benefit from new or renovated schools. Senior citizens in Wellesley should be able to have a freeze on their real estate taxes once they turn 65 years of age. Other states currently have such real estate tax freezes and I think it should be considered.	11/1/2016 2:28 PM
33	We bought our home two years ago so our daughters could walk to school. Please don't change the current zoning. Small, neighborhood schools are some of the gems of Wellesley!	11/1/2016 2:27 PM
34	The focus on walkability, traffic, and cost clearly show that this survey is biased to elicit responses that favor the HHU Master Plan Committee's agenda. Why aren't educational objectives the primary consideration? There is a prevailing sentiment in town that consolidation (and closing Hardy School) is a done deal and that all the activities (hiring additional consultants, etc.) are meant solely to convey the appearance of an open mind. Overall, the lack of transparency in the process has been of great concern.	11/1/2016 2:14 PM
35	Consolidating schools to offer better programs (special ed, music, etc.) should be a priority Consolidating schools to consolidate school administrators to save cost so be priority. New schools that offer reduced operating cost should be a priority New schools that allow for community use (gyms, cafeteria) should be considered	11/1/2016 1:33 PM
36	Hardy is a terrible place for a school, way to dangerous for children and causes major traffic issues.	11/1/2016 12:59 PM
37	My children started school in mid-90s, soon after the Fiske/Schofield/Hunnewell renovations/additions -- it was stunning to see modulars go in so soon after a supposedly well planned upgrade. I feel that even if we have "extra" school space in the near term, there might well come a time when it is needed for education. In the meantime, the town needs space for other functions (witness the need to rent some office space) -- surely any extra school space could be well used. The current plans seem short-sighted. And I am very concerned about the impact of large schools on both the educational experience and the neighborhood impact.	11/1/2016 12:41 PM
38	Much like the senior center, the renovation/consolidation of the schools seems like an excessive use of taxpayer money. Property values in Wellesley are already at or near peak and the property taxes are ridiculously high compared to Dover, which also has better schools. The Town should be looking for ways to reduce the tax burden of its residents, not continue to find projects that increase it. If the residents that live near Hardy would like to keep a neighborhood school, then they should shoulder a disproportionate amount (not all) of the expense.	11/1/2016 12:06 PM
39	I think a strong case for consolidating schools could be made based on significant savings to the entire system.	11/1/2016 11:07 AM
40	Objections to a school swing-space during renovation/rebuilding being situated too close to another elementary school are bogus - Weston's elementary schools do just fine situated right next door to each other.	11/1/2016 11:06 AM
41	no	11/1/2016 10:44 AM
42	1. Please renovate / build as quickly as possible, to limit disruption for current and future students. Less than 2 years of disruption. 2. Please make sure the 'swing space' is good. St. Paul's for Hunnewell would be fine (you can solve the playground issue somehow). Hunnewell student to Hardy would NOT be good (due to traffic, size, etc). 3. It is OK to spend money (within reason), to continue to have good schools and facilities. We will gladly pay for these projects.	11/1/2016 10:42 AM
43	I appreciate the opportunity to give my opinion to so important a decision but I do not have children in school and am mainly interested in keeping my taxes lower. Thank you.	11/1/2016 9:35 AM
44	It is important to realize that children themselves are probably not seeking architecturally updated buildings; they want safe and fun places to learn - with lots of outdoor spaces. Our current schools can provide this without demolishing buildings that in most of American would be considered good environments.	11/1/2016 9:33 AM

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45	I care primarily about two factors: class size and construction/operating costs (which affect taxpayers). The typical Wellesley hysteria about closing a neighborhood school should be outweighed by a cost efficient project - that still involves class sizes within guidelines. Children can easily adapt to a larger school - especially once settled in with an excellent teacher and a reasonable class size. From all the discourse to date, it seems that the parents are the ones having the difficulty making this adjustment. This is a huge expense for the town, and while I support the schools and am proud of the quality of the public schools, there has to be a middle ground here between fiscal prudence and serving the needs of the elementary population.	11/1/2016 9:14 AM
46	Wellesley needs to get spending under control. The backwards way that they "budget" is irresponsible. If the roof of the police dept was repaired for \$1 million, then I am afraid to see the costs of building and repairing these new schools. The building and maintenance costs need to be seriously and realistically considered.	11/1/2016 8:57 AM
47	I do not think that neighborhood schools must conform to the current district lines. The town has been redistricted in the past and everyone survived. Further, there are families that live near Hunnewell and are walkable to Hunnewell, yet are districted to Sprague. They must drive and cross Rt. 9 to get to Sprague. These families might welcome a redistricting. Wellesley has been spending money hand over fist for years and I have supported every initiative from the St. James acquisition to the North 40 to the Senior Center. Regarding school reconstruction, arguably we want top notch schools. However, I am starting to get concerned with our fiscal prudence.	11/1/2016 7:49 AM
48	As a former Educator and School Administrator I was employed in a city that chose to close and consolidate schools. The impact of this reorganization on the School Communities involved was tragic to say the least. School Communities argued with each other which led to harboring resentments that lasted for years. More importantly it was the students who had a difficult time adjusting to the changes. Many students indicated that they felt a sense of loss and anger over losing their School/Neighborhood Identity. In short, I believe that any plan that disrupts a School Community is a disservice to the ones who rely on the Town Officials to do what is in the best interest of the CHILDREN. Wellesley spent millions on our new High School only to balk at funding for new /renovated Schools for our younger students who deserve only the best from our town.	10/31/2016 10:26 PM
49	My kids walked to Schofield every day - I wish more kids did, but I believe most parents now prefer to drive their kids regardless of "walkability". Social situations have changed- fewer moms work and can now do dropoffs, kids are less tolerant of rain and snow, parents believe it is safer, and they need to pick them up at the end of the day for activities elsewhere. For this reason, "walkability" (and the small size this implies) that was important in an elemental school in the past is no longer, and should not be a determining factor in the plan. If you go through the extra trouble and expense of 3 schools just to achieve walkability the major of kids will be driven anyway. if you change plans to maintain historic nature and a tree consider also how much you are willing to spend for that tree or those historic features - is that town money well spent? what else could it have been spent on?	10/31/2016 9:18 PM
50	Changes and redistricting are difficult and emotional issues. My kids were in elementary school during the last significant redistricting. While it is difficult at first, everyone continues to support their kids and their school and it's not the end of the world. It is better to make an intelligent long term decision, and I think adding millions and millions to the cost is a serious concern. But I also think traffic through town is a serious concern for both the school kids as well as all the commuters trying to get through the downtown area of Wellesley.	10/31/2016 9:18 PM
51	Renovate or build all three schools to keep all schools open. Keep neighborhood schools so that kids can walk/bike to school. We moved to Wellesley because of the quality of the schools and the location of the schools.	10/31/2016 8:27 PM
52	The cost of town projects authorized over the past several years has dramatically increased the total tax paid per household, and the addition of the HHU project would put an undue burden on people who are living on the lower end of this town's income span and/or on fixed incomes.	10/31/2016 8:16 PM
53	The Real Estate taxes of Senior Citizen residents, who are often retired and on fixed incomes, should not be increased due to the HHU project. If it is determined otherwise, then it should be at a lower rate.	10/31/2016 7:25 PM
54	Think about the number of children that go to private school in the U district, vs the Hardy district	10/31/2016 6:32 PM
55	Has anyone calculated how much heating and maintenance costs have been increased by the construction of Sprague and the High School, including the need for new personnel? These oversized buildings come with very expensive overhead costs which multiply year by year.	10/31/2016 5:01 PM
56	Thank you for letting the public give opinions in this manner. I appreciate all the time and effort of many but do feel we need to watch expenses and not go overboard in the final decision. As it is, schools account for TOO big a percentage of our taxes. What do we REALLY need?	10/31/2016 4:48 PM
57	I was unable to attend the meeting on October 27th. I don't have enough understanding of the issue to make judgments about it. Will there be a further community meeting on this issue?	10/31/2016 4:18 PM
58	I am 91 years old. My six kids went through the school system successfully. I was not able to attend the meeting on October 27th. Please schedule another meeting.	10/31/2016 4:12 PM
59	no	10/31/2016 2:44 PM

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60	whatever, however when ever you do this...do it with the upermost thought of maintaining Wellesley's good learning atmosphere and results!	10/31/2016 2:17 PM
61	Think about other ways to get money, stop taxing us, and stop acting like it's just \$650 a year more. We have heard that for the past 20 years while our taxes have tripled.	10/31/2016 2:14 PM
62	In a time when political, religious, social, racial, and economic divisions have nearly destroyed all sense of societal cohesiveness, it is extremely important to preserve and support institutions that provide a sense of community. The existing neighborhood school communities do that. The decision on closing schools must not be considered just a matter of economics or educational theory.	10/31/2016 1:37 PM
63	Wellesley is a very unique town for its education model of neighborhood schools and our property values reflect that desire in the MetroWest area.	10/31/2016 1:26 PM
64	As a senior citizen who's taxes are already extremely high for a small home, it's going to be difficult to stay in Wellesley. Building the new Senior Center won't keep me in town if I can't survive the costs of living here and now this huge project. Ugh!	10/31/2016 1:08 PM
65	would like to have more data on the process, options, projected costs, & rationale for the amount of money spent and impact on taxes for families.	10/31/2016 12:15 PM
66	No matter what plan is put into place, it will be a logistical nightmare and very expensive. Having said that, it is important that some kind of a futuristic plan --- that will no longer permit deferred maintenance on school buildings be put into place. Any plan will be an adjustment for the children and families that are currently using the facilities. Somewhat larger and fewer schools are the way to go. As well, avoiding the mix of children, school buses, and heavy traffic on Weston Road should be welcomed.	10/31/2016 11:36 AM
67	I think that renovation of the three schools is important. We're reaching a time where the schools are devolving into very bad condition, especially when compared to the most recently renovated schools like Sprague. That being said, I will only vote for a renovation of the three schools. To put it bluntly, the combination of the three schools is a stupid idea. Having gone all the way through the entire Wellesley public school system, I will tell you that knowing a small group of people that attended your elementary school has a pretty large effect. I can not count the amount of times I talked to people from my small elementary class, reminiscing on the experiences we all had. If you were to combine the three schools, the class size (total number in 5th grade for instance) would increase drastically, and there is no way to ensure that all the kids in that class are experiencing the same thing - which is exactly what I bonded with my class mates about. Additionally, the transfer from elementary to middle school was a big transition in which you could rely on your elementary class mates and try to branch out and meet other students. Everyone was in the same situation where they only knew about 50-100 people in the class. If you were to combine the schools, the students from the combined school would have an advantage as they would know about 150-200 students. They would be more likely to stay friends with that large group of students, and the students from the other schools would be "forced" to stay friends with those they went to elementary students. I realize the need to renovate the schools, I understand that, but the combination of the schools will have a lot of impact on the students, far beyond what I think you have thought of. As committee members I am sure that you guys have thought about student experience, but have not thought about the complex social situation you're going to place the kids in. Having that small group of kids you can call you "elementary school" is such a valuable experience, and by combining the schools you will remove that from the Wellesley school system.	10/31/2016 11:31 AM
68	Again, there is tremendous support to vote no to any debt exclusion that takes down Hardy and reduces 7 elementary schools to 6. We support fixing these three schools and redistricting if necessary.	10/31/2016 11:24 AM
69	-Demolishing green space (like the North 40 or Upham ledges) should only be a last resort. -Try to make the renovations (both the construction, and the end product) as sustainable as possible.	10/31/2016 11:15 AM
70	I like the idea of new school at North 40. Great location for a school.	10/31/2016 11:11 AM
71	My main concern is that my children would get redistricted and have to leave their friends and that we wouldn't be in the Bates neighborhood which was a HUGE factor in buying our home. We wanted our children to go to Bates and to be able to VERY safely walk there with their friends and we will be crushed if redistricting changes that.	10/31/2016 11:08 AM
72	Building bigger schools does not create a better school district. Since the new superintendent came to town and the new high school opened, the ratings of our students have gone down in the state and national standings. Districts we used to be ahead of are now passing us by. As a community we continue to spend money, on what? High salaries for an administration that clearly does not have the ability to improve our schools and make our children into the great leaders they could be if the schools were better. Even cities are starting to pass us as we slip in the standings. It is pathetic that the current administration is more concerned about physical plant, equipment and their own fat wallets than the betterment of the education of our children. I have never been more disgusted by the administration and their complete disregard for the educational process. The new high school was supposed to be a better place for learning, a better place for learning should breed better educated children able to score well on standardized tests, ours keep slipping relative to others. The blame lies not with the children but the administration that has clearly failed them.	10/31/2016 10:47 AM

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73	Why is consolidation of students from Upham into Bates not being done? Bates has such small class size, could easily be expanded, is in good shape and is in close proximity. When one looks at the geography of town, no other area has the density of elementary schools as does the Hardy, Bates and Upham area. New housing has now made other districts denser and there are no good sidewalks along Babson, Wellesley Country Club, Wellesley Avenue, Hunnewell Street to allow children in other districts the ability to walk or bike. Making walking or biking a criteria for HHU does not meet the needs of those in other districts such as Fiske.	10/31/2016 10:44 AM
74	The Hunnewell School location and architecture should be prioritized over Hardy and Upham.	10/31/2016 9:50 AM
75	The neighborhood school model is one of the reasons people move to Wellesley- the ability to get to know your neighbors through the school is a huge benefit to building the overall community. You can see at the Middle school and High School levels where kids from the whole town go together, the neighborhood feel is gone- it feels more scattered and there is less connection to the school by parents.	10/31/2016 9:02 AM
76	Use the incremental approach, and work on improving one school at a time. There is no need to do this as one complete project. It makes it too complex and harder to sell. Doing them separately spreads the process out so that it can adapt to future changes as it progresses.	10/31/2016 8:48 AM
77	As retirees wishing to remain in our Wellesley home as long as possible, skyrocketing taxes due to expensive capital improvements and mansionization are a direct, immediate and unsustainable threat for us.	10/31/2016 8:04 AM
78	Get rid of the dead weight. It is cheaper to consolidate and the numbers do not support maintaining and renovating three buildings.	10/31/2016 8:02 AM
79	Quality education is the most important thing for our community. As a parent of three and a 1st grade teacher, I believe that small community schools with modern technology and small class size is how this is accomplished.	10/31/2016 7:59 AM
80	Please read my comments above.	10/31/2016 5:51 AM
81	The location of our neighborhood elementary school (Hunnewell) was a major factor in our home purchase location - as it is for many Wellesley residents. I recognize the need to renovate Hardy, Hunnewell and Upham. I do *not* support the closing or consolidation of any of them.	10/31/2016 12:11 AM
82	The neighborhood school system is of great value to existing families and for people thinking of buying property in our town. This system of neighborhood schools is a distinguishing factor relative to our neighboring towns and is one of the primary drivers of land values in our town relative to neighboring towns. If we lose that, we will become less distinctive and being part of our town will mean less, with a predictable impact on housing values. We will become just another town in the area and housing values will suffer, as will the educational opportunities for our children. Given our town base, I would expect more parents would be driven to private schools to preserve the educational opportunities for their children if we were to increase school size and break the community aspect of education that makes our school system so strong. Please don't close any schools.	10/30/2016 11:52 PM
83	the estimated costs are always lower than actual and this is a very controversial project that affects the fabric and reputation of the town,. moreover, we have spent so much in such a short period that we need to slow down as the young families soon become old families and both ends of the spectrum are impacted . The north forty needs to be put to revenue producing use as the town needs to stop spending and level out for a few years. what ever happened to a north hill type of community or more mid range town homes for young and old so young people can start out and older people can down size and stay in town ? We need more attractive affordable housing in town .	10/30/2016 11:38 PM
84	Would strongly prefer to keep neighborhood schools	10/30/2016 11:02 PM
85	Keep our current model and renovate. Wasteful to tear down- we have enough if that already in this town.	10/30/2016 9:40 PM
86	Thank you for your time and effort in a very important and emotional issue for the Town.	10/30/2016 9:28 PM
87	I don't know how accurate the population prediction it will be. I have noticed a rapid increase in immigrant population who have education need.	10/30/2016 9:25 PM
88	Can there be a "maintenance budget" collected each year knowing that these repair/replace costs will come up? When we are asked to pay 600-800 each year on our taxes for 1 school renovation on top of the extra school costs it appears like there has been no fore-planning!	10/30/2016 9:16 PM
89	1. Living in the Hardy neighborhood, I can say that the traffic pattern is much worse in the evening on Weston road between 5 and 6:30 pm than in the morning during school hours. Therefore, it is clear that the increase in traffic is not driven by the school but rather bad design of guiding traffic within the town of Wellesley. 2. I moved from Europe and when I look at the construction/renovation budget of >90 Mio\$, then I have to say, that with efficient and strong project management, lean execution and tough negotiations even 3 schools should be able to be completely renovated.	10/30/2016 8:23 PM
90	I appreciate all the time you have spent on HHU. The dollar amount spread over the life of the building seems relatively small and it seems like a lifestyle question that should be put to the voters.	10/30/2016 8:11 PM
91	Please keep taxes down.	10/30/2016 7:58 PM

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92	As you weigh cost/benefit tradeoffs in your planning, please give careful consideration to those Wellesley residents who don't have high incomes and for whom the tax increases really pinch. Thanks for going to the trouble to collect this input.	10/30/2016 7:36 PM
93	I feel very strongly about keeping smaller schools and neighborhood schools. I think all 3 schools should be kept open. It is a main reason why I chose to live in Wellesley versus some other town. I believe reducing the number of neighborhood schools and replacing with fewer and larger elementary schools will change the nature and feel of the Wellesley. Costs can be kept down by simply bringing buildings up to code and then looking at school needs on case by case basis. (Your question #12 about this was quite black and white...when logic tells me there is LOTS of gray).	10/30/2016 7:17 PM
94	Two schools are fine. The concept of "neighborhood schools" is archaic.	10/30/2016 6:48 PM
95	I think its very important to design the schools so that Special Ed kids are mainstreamed from the outset... We want the Non-Special Ed Population and the Special Ed Population to intertwine and be supportive and complimentary... This really seems to happen well at the High School now... There is huge Talent to be sourced from these kids and the Physical Setting of the Schools can probably do remarkable things to that end... The Town needs a really insightful Architect...Definitely worth the money...	10/30/2016 6:40 PM
96	If you close ANY one of the 3 schools, you will IMMEDIATELY collapse real estate prices in that direct surrounding area of the closed school by ~10-15% (which would average in at a \$50,000-\$75,000 DECLINE in the value of an average \$500k Wellesley house). That is WELL beyond the estimated ~\$300+ increase to people's annual taxes that would occur from the bill to renovate each of the 3 schools separately to modern day requirements and keep them all open. Further, if you were to have all the elementary schools open on ONLY ONE side of Route 9, you would collapse real estate prices specifically in Upham. You will create an artificial arbitrage in real estate pricing that will spill over into other parts of the town as well driving a dramatic decline in ALL Wellesley real estate prices. People will choose to live Newton, Brookline, Weston, Wayland, and Needham instead. The math is very simple. All Wellesley residents of ALL ages including the elderly (and with kids or not) should understand the math of the SERIOUS NEGATIVE impact to their OWN personal net worth, when the value of their home collapses by 10-15% IMMEDIATELY OVERNIGHT by closing ANY of the 3 schools! We should just go ahead and renovate Hardy, Hunnewell, and Upham. I'll send in my \$300 tomorrow to do my part in paying the renovation bills. And my kids don't even go to Wellesley schools....	10/30/2016 6:22 PM
97	I would support a plan that looks to reusing existing school buildings and locations rather than building new schools on virgin land.	10/30/2016 5:19 PM
98	I have lost all trust in and respect for Wellesley's school administrators, school committee members and our town government.	10/30/2016 5:09 PM
99	Check all the numbers associated with this project and see if other towns have done the same things for less and then use their plans. We don't always have to reinvent the wheel and pay tons of money for it!	10/30/2016 4:18 PM
100	I feel that the town is being pressured by the superintendent and school committee to move forward with a program that is not supported by the town. I have spoken with many friends and neighbors throughout different areas of Wellesley, and with varying ages of children, and no-one, not one person, has been in favor of reducing HHU to build larger schools. I also feel it would be such a loss for the town to destroy the green space around Upham and North 40 (we have so little of it in Wellesley) for an under-supported plan. I am glad you are conducting this survey to get feedback from the town - please listen.	10/30/2016 3:04 PM
101	One of the main reasons people choose Wellesley is for the school system. If we don't maintain and properly address the needs of the buildings appropriately, meaning we not only take care of them with maintenance but rebuild them well to ensure they last, we risk putting a huge economic impact on the town for the real estate market, small businesses and teachers who teach here. If we combine schools, you lose the learning environment that fosters close-knit relationships, allowing students to walk home and live around their neighbors, and the reason we maintain 7 buildings. I loved Hunnewell because my friends and I lived within walking distance, which made it easy to hang-out after school and easier for parents as they didn't have to drive to pick us up, reducing not only driving hazards (of which I have seen too many around drop-off/pick-up time) but also stress, hassle and environmental impact. Wellesley is growing, and the new buildings must reflect that. Whatever you all choose to do, do it with quality and integrity for future generations. We want to be proud of the educational standards Wellesley has and continues to stress, and this starts with inspiring children who actually want to attend school with their friends. Consider that more than anything.	10/30/2016 2:45 PM
102	hope some deeper thinkers are elected to the school board and selectmen/women boards	10/30/2016 2:02 PM
103	The three oldest of our 4 children are starting school in wellesley in January (K, 2nd, 3rd). We just purchased a house within 0.7 miles of Hunnewell. We live next to the Brook path, which provides the safest, most direct, walkable path to the school- yet our children cannot attend Hunnewell due to overcrowding. We chose Wellesley specifically for the schools and and walk-ability of the town. To learn that we cannot take advantage of the proximity of our neighborhood school is beyond maddening. The investment made to set up residence in this town is enormous- we need to ensure future residents do not encounter this frustration. Renovate and increase capacity of all neighborhood schools. We need to secure educational stability for the next generation of Wellesley.	10/30/2016 1:32 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

104	My husband and I recently moved to Wellesley. Our 3 children were educated in the Medfield public school system which uses the community school system. There is 1 school for K- 3, 1 school for 4-5, 1 school for 6-8, and the high school. These schools are large but because they accommodate a specific age group, all resources, teaches, ancillary personnel, and extra curricular are designed specifically for the appropriate age. I believe this not only reduces operating costs, but more importantly, promotes an appropriate supportive educational culture for each school. The students and parents all know each other before reaching high school, there is no neighborhood school rivalry or need to live in a specific neighborhood, bus routes are worked out (since it was all we knew, it was never a big deal).	10/30/2016 11:00 AM
105	Please keep all three HHU schools! The environment of the school culture and climate, the familial neighborhood aspect, and the collaboration, the commitment and the tremendous teamwork the teaching team at each school embodies, plays a critical role in the development and educational success of our elementary school students!	10/30/2016 10:57 AM
106	I like the size of the elementary schools. Although there is work that needs to be done on the buildings - I don't have a strong opinion on renovating vs build from scratch. I would support a consolidation of the administration - I think with the size of the schools that 1 principle cover 2 schools with a strong building manager in each school should be explored .	10/30/2016 10:50 AM
107	Keep neighborhood schools!!	10/30/2016 8:56 AM
108	I think the superintendent has decided what he wants and no survey or plan will change it.	10/30/2016 8:25 AM
109	I am much more comfortable, both as a Wellesley taxpayer, a parent of students in the Wellesley school system, and as a resident abutting one of the elementary schools being evaluated with the current pace and substance of the planning process pertaining to the renovation issue in this survey compared to the original presentation to the town. That proposal felt like it had been made out of nowhere and with inadequate feedback from town residents, especially those in the hardy district. I would like to thank all involved with the current process for offering their time and effort in revisiting this question.	10/29/2016 11:18 PM
110	I applaud the committee for setting up this survey. However, it feels a bit late to be (finally) soliciting public input like this. In candor, I was surprised, nay dismayed, to learn that this process has been ongoing since 2013. From what I can tell, there was little, if any, public awareness of, let alone involvement in, the HHU project early stages. In candor, many of us had no idea any of this was even happening. We all were quite shocked when the SFC first presented its findings and made its recommendation in the Hardy School gymnasium. As a neighbor and friend asked, "have I been living under a rock for the past few years? Why didn't I know this was going on?" Remarkably, we all received plenty of emails and other notices re: a potential ice skating facility on Rte. 9, yet nothing at all about our schools. Why wasn't a survey like this put forth earlier in the process? Why wasn't the public's input solicited by the SFC committee for consideration before it made its recommendations? Clearly, community input is a necessary piece to the puzzle... otherwise you wouldn't be gathering it now. That public input wasn't considered, let alone solicited, tarnishes the process to date, and certainly calls into question the validity of the SFC's recommendation.	10/29/2016 10:26 PM
111	I believe in small neighborhood schools and I will only support an override if it includes all 3 (Hardy, Hunnewell and Upham) Schools being renovated or rebuilt. I will not vote to support an override for a 2 school solution as I do not believe that it is in the best interest of the children, families, educators or the Town of Wellesley.	10/29/2016 10:21 PM
112	School districts need to match the needs of neighborhoods. Make sure the project takes into consideration the demographics and influx of younger families over last few years.	10/29/2016 8:55 PM
113	Having top elementary schools is extremely important to the town. It supports healthy property values and attracts excellent teachers to the district. Property taxes are low compared to surrounding towns, and for the most part residents can afford the extra cost to have modern schools.	10/29/2016 8:22 PM
114	See above answer	10/29/2016 7:40 PM
115	very much appreciate the issue, and the continued efforts at communication. while are children are now out of the elementary system, we are keen to see the best outcome for our community without breaking the finances of those of limited means thanks [NAME REDACTED]	10/29/2016 6:40 PM
116	If the full, 3 school improvement is pursued, provide property tax discounts for fixed income seniors.	10/29/2016 6:11 PM
117	SEE ABOVE! Thank you!!	10/29/2016 6:06 PM
118	The community involving an elementary school nearby is one of the special things about Wellesley.	10/29/2016 4:20 PM
119	The most important point to remember is that we're paying, and will continue to pay, for the new high school for years to come. We shouldn't be rebuilding every school on the backs of taxpayers all at the same time - it is a financial hardship on many in the community. I ask that you take into consideration people without children, retired folks, and others in Wellesley who do not benefit from this project whatsoever, yet would still have to pay increased taxes. We are getting tired of it. The school system represents an extraordinary percentage of Wellesley's annual budget, and they never seem to follow the guidelines set by the Town Manager when submitting their budget. I think it's time to get more fiscal discipline and not assume that taxpayers have an unlimited appetite to absorb all the wants of both the School Committee and the parents of school children.	10/29/2016 2:38 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

120	<p>The sleaziness of the HHU process run by town officials is a disgrace and should be an embarrassment to anyone living in Wellesley. Officials making up the School Facilities Committee first came up with a recommendation to close Hardy without parental input, thus pitting Hardy families against families in all the other school districts. If this particular "divide and conquer" strategy wasn't enough, the SFC then made it clear that Upham was the other school considered for closure, in effect telling Upham parents that they'd better be happy with a "mega-school" under the SFC's consolidation plan, because the alternative might have been no school at all. Additionally, the "Parental Advisory Committee" was a transparent attempt by the SFC and School Committee to advocate for the consolidation plan, with the moderator chosen by the SC and agendas heavily weighted towards presentations by consultants the SFC had hired that supported the consolidation recommendation. Opponents were given very little opportunity to speak out; at one meeting the moderator announced that "Citizen's Speak" speakers would be limited to a laughably short one minute each! Hardy School PAC representatives were told by school administration they could not use school e-mail lists to communicate to parents, which was the only effective way to keep parents informed of what was going on. The HHU Master Plan Committee also has a large number of SFC members on it, an obvious conflict of interest where they are supposedly advising on their own recommendation. Another conflict of interest: two members of the School Committee were on the SFC, and will ultimately be voting on their own recommendation. Moreover, parents have been subjected to a barrage of misinformation, with the SFC for example stating that "most studies" consider "small" elementary schools to include enrollments up to 500. This would make no sense, since according to the Digest of Education Statistics the average grade school size is less than 500. The SFC has also argued that reducing the number of grade schools by 14% (closing one of 7 schools) and increasing average walking distances "would not change" the current neighborhood school model, another laughable assertion. Again, all of Wellesley should be embarrassed by this process.</p>	10/29/2016 2:28 PM
121	<p>My biggest priorities (from a Hunnewell-centric point of view) are: 1) That the project be completed quickly, with children displaced for no more than two years 2) That the swing space be reasonably convenient for families (e.g. not across town or overly congested), but still provide a top notch educational experience for affected students 3) In the meantime, I hope maintenance spending at HHU remains adequate. It would be unfortunate/unfair to see conditions get to truly terrible levels in the year(s) before construction 4) St. Paul's sounds like a great option for displaced Hunnewell students, but the lack of playground space is concerning. It would be nice to see this addressed, perhaps with some play space/structures set up across the street by the police station? 5) It would be nice to keep the Hunnewell students together (e.g. if not everyone can fit at St. Paul's, don't split grades between locations. This makes it hard for friendships across classes) 6) Costs should not be a major concern - these schools are being built to benefit the town for years to come. While a higher tax bill may be somewhat painful in the near term, we will all get it back through the value of the education (and the value of our homes...). Thank you for all your work!</p>	10/29/2016 2:19 PM
122	<p>I think we need to examine all of these issues and thank you for the work put into this. Each community is different, but my daughter's in Lincoln and it was been so nice for her - as a working mother - for the after school programs to be right there at the school location. Would be a big plus if somehow we could accommodate that to make it easier for working parents. It also gives the children a central place for all....and their kids are in classes with their soccer teammates, the piano lessons are on premises after school, recitals are in the auditorium, etc. Much smaller system, but seeing it in operation has opened my eyes. IF we consolidated a few schools in new buildings in North 40 and sold the land from closed schools, could we cover a decent portion of the costs? Also, looking at the materials it seems like some of the school districts (Sprague, particularly) could be re-drawn to make more sense. Thanks again for allowing input!</p>	10/29/2016 2:03 PM
123	<p>I have heard that many children in the Upham area go to private school so is would want to know percentage of students that walk and live in neighborhood. I am not even sure if this is correct , just something I have heard from some people</p>	10/29/2016 1:41 PM
124	<p>I am concerned about immediately raising taxes!!! It cannot continue!!</p>	10/29/2016 1:36 PM
125	<p>No</p>	10/29/2016 1:21 PM
126	<p>See above. Thank you</p>	10/29/2016 1:14 PM
127	<p>Decisions should be based on facts, not personal interests (whether one is for or against the proposed consolidation). I have seen and heard far too many opinions based solely on personal interests (my house value, my children, etc.). On the other hand, demographic projections should be looked at very closely (the Cropper analysis was derived from commercial demographic projections that never go beyond 5 years, and these commercial projections do not consider population growth factors as granular as the wave of teardowns and consequent mansionization currently affecting Wellesley. We should be very careful NOT to assume that these commercial projections are always correct.</p>	10/29/2016 1:10 PM
128	<p>Stop rewarding mediocrity in governmental leadership (we praise a 5 year school plan, since it was the first ever. Are you serious?). Start controlling expenses like shared health care costs, like accountability in schools, like setting measurable as a performance goal instead of "nice job, we like you", or "scores are lower compared to Needham, but we pay employees more and taxpayers like it.</p>	10/29/2016 12:39 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

129	My taxes have increased this year. I was very worried. I did not know about the meetings to assess school buildings. It's important. It's worth upgrading schools not for superficial upgrades but technology upgrades if needed and certainly structural code compliance for safety. Why do all three schools need to be renovated at the same time? It shouldn't be thought of as "bargain shopping" for the best price that comes with buying in quantity.	10/29/2016 12:35 PM
130	Keep the public informed; there are many of us, long-time residents and tax-payers, who no longer have school aged kids but care about this town, its future as well as its past.	10/29/2016 12:02 PM
131	Schools should be up to date. Historic aspects are valuable but should not compromise the functioning, operating budgets or cost of the school.	10/29/2016 12:02 PM
132	no, I feel remote from the issues because my children went to Hunnewell in the 1960s and 1970s.	10/29/2016 11:49 AM
133	the town destroyed the old high school and saved some items to display in new school. why can't they do the same with the elementary schools. if the town really wanted neighborhood schools they would rebuild Perrin, and wouldn't have sold Brown, Phillips, Kingsbury or reutilized Warren. the neighborhood school in Wellesley is a fality.	10/29/2016 11:27 AM
134	I'm in favor of renovating the three existing elementary schools. I believe this would be more cost effective and less impactful to students, families, the community at-large, and the environment.	10/29/2016 11:25 AM
135	If any renovations are accomplished, I would prefer that they are constructive and not just for looks. My feelings are that money should go into the education of the children and not just a beautiful building. Some of our newer schools are way overboard. For example, the Sprague school cannot even heat the gymnasium properly. It is set at too low a temperature. Cool is healthy; but cold is not.	10/29/2016 11:18 AM
136	Would support phase in. Do hunnewell 1st use St Paul as swing. Then do next 2 when more info is available in enrollment. Smooths out debt exlusions.	10/29/2016 10:54 AM
137	Why did it take so long for this plan to be developed? How long has our town's leadership known of these issues? Instead of being proactive, we are reactive and it's disappointing. It feels like the residents are being held hostage because we don't want our children to suffer.	10/29/2016 9:53 AM
138	Please renovate and keep all three schools. Do not demolish the existing historic classrooms.	10/29/2016 9:47 AM
139	We think neighborhood schools are terrific.	10/29/2016 9:38 AM
140	Don't go overboard on spending or young families won't be able to move in to go to the schools. We moved here instead of Newton because the taxes were lower. Not everyone works in the financial industry. The town still needs a variety of professionals. Doctors, lawyers, and businessmen. Not just CEO's and hedge fund managers.	10/29/2016 9:38 AM
141	Maintaining our neighborhood schools is of prime importance. Reasons for proposed changes to this concept pale in comparison.	10/29/2016 9:35 AM
142	Will we be confronted after this project with a proposal about the middle school? Just a question . . .	10/29/2016 9:09 AM
143	For me, a neighborhood school should be an enjoyable and important part of the child's academic and social life. The goal is to have the child love school, become a lifelong learner, and be excited to leave Wellesly to go on to a university or college. I think that this love of school is better fostered by having a smaller school that is within a walkable distance. Children then meet at the school on weekends and after school to play which further integrates the school into the child's life and promotes positive feelings toward school.	10/28/2016 11:36 PM
144	The school situation is definitely a challenge on many levels. And, as you probably know, not everyone will be happy in the end. Good Luck. And thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this matter.	10/28/2016 9:32 PM
145	Update the schools. New construction. Misplace kids for a few years if need be for sake of future generations. Keep schools small and for the neighborhood.	10/28/2016 9:30 PM
146	N/a	10/28/2016 9:14 PM
147	The tax burden on Wellesley residents is already causing 'senior flight' from the town. I am STRONGLY opposed to anything other than the minimal expenditure on schools!	10/28/2016 8:44 PM
148	I pass Hardy school often and am often bothered, and occasionally inconvenienced, by the traffic at opening and closing times, which of course has important implications for the safety of students. (This is sometimes increased by drivers who are on their phones while driving, but that is my own particular bugaboo.) While I would be sorry to see Hardy closed, I do wonder about the long term viability of a school on such a busy road.	10/28/2016 8:22 PM
149	Not at this time	10/28/2016 8:07 PM
150	Thank you to all of the people who have given their time and expertise regarding this project. Not an easy job!	10/28/2016 7:25 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

151	Yes, I strongly believe the neighborhood school model contributes a good deal to the outcome the children in the town have. Neighborhood schools promote community spirit and that encourages the family model and pride in community. Its worth paying for, its one of the major elements that makes wellesley swellesley!	10/28/2016 6:53 PM
152	Strong neighborhood elementary schools are crown jewel of our community. These schools are the reason people move to our town and buy expensive homes. After an amazing elementary school experience in Wellesley, we moved our children into private school because the middle school was just too big. Kids thrive in an environment where they feel known and safe. By the time my girls were in 4th and 5th grade at Hardy, they knew every teacher and every teacher knew them. They walked to school with neighborhood kids who were in grades above and below them and still count those children as their friends. Hardy is a diverse community at the heart of a neighborhood where entry level homes exist for young families. A former school committee member told me, "You build schools where kids live," and Hardy is a neighborhood that is bursting with young families. Hardy consistently scores at the top of the charts for ALL the Wellelsey Schools in state rankings. Hardy has an amazing group of committed teachers who have been devastated by the past year's discussion of closing their school. Why would you choose the school that is the most promising for closure, especially over a school that has consistently been unable to attract children in a neighborhood where very few young families can afford to live. This consolidation plan would shatter the small, neighborhood school model that has been the foundation of the Wellesley Public Schools. I understand that for Administrative purposes it makes more sense to have bigger schools but we are a town that can afford to invest in our children. Generations before us have invested time and again, will we be the first group of citizens to walk away from this commitment to our youngest learners? These investments and it have always paid dividends. I fear this plan will divide our community and be the first step at dismantling the foundation of our successful public school system. We should find cost effective ways to build and maintain small neighborhood schools. And I have been so utterly disappointed in the leadership from our Superintendent to our school committee members and our selectmen who have so mishandled the politics of this situation. The lack of transparency and aversion to open dialogue has been staggering.	10/28/2016 5:56 PM
153	Seven schools with 2,100 - 2,200 students gives an average of 300-315 students per school; with six schools the average goes to 350-365, not a terribly worrying change. Indeed, Bates, Fiske, Schofield, and Sprague are all pretty close to the latter numbers already. Hunnewell and Upham are way below this. Together with Hardy, combined current enrollment at these three HHU schools is 781, projected to decline to 740. With two schools instead of three (HHU), the average is 390 per school at current enrollment, 370 at future enrollment levels. Seems like there is an easy solution here. Two schools to replace the current three (HHU), and perhaps some marginal TOWN-WIDE redistricting to even out the numbers across all schools. We do not need 7 schools, and we should not support the capital and operating costs of 7 schools. MAKE IT SIX.	10/28/2016 5:53 PM
154	Please DO something about those schools - they are in deplorable condition. I am in favor of the original plan to build a new Upham and a renovation of Hunnewell. Hardy site is awful for Weston Rd as would be the North 40 site. Redistrict the schools and define new neighborhoods for the elem schools.	10/28/2016 5:38 PM
155	Keep out of the North 40. the last thing we need is more traffic don Weston Rd. You need to find ways to get kids on buses and out of cars - the road is already a dangerous hazard.	10/28/2016 4:35 PM
156	My children have all "aged out" from our elementary system. Even so, I vigorously support the preservation of all existing schools. Furthermore, as our population of K-5 children increases, more schools should be built (North 40, Perrin). I am not in favor of substituting large schools by combining districts. I absolutely oppose the conversion of Hardy to administrative offices. I am a 55 year resident of the town, and have owned my own home here since 1983. I attending Wellesley schools, K-12.	10/28/2016 4:31 PM
157	I hope that a plan would optimize educational outcomes for students with costs that keep people on fixed incomes in Wellesley.	10/28/2016 4:18 PM
158	I feel the town of Wellesley freely spends taxpayers' money without any consideration to where the money comes from & the answer is always an increase in property tax. With all of the multi-million dollar homes in this community the tax income per year should be more than enough to cover certain projects & if not, maybe consideration should be focused on cutting expenses. I'm sure the generous pensions enjoyed by the school teachers, firemen & policemen eat up most of the tax income. Renovations & maintenance of the schools should have been an ongoing project during the summer months instead of waiting until the buildings are beyond repair to then require this horrendous cost.	10/28/2016 4:11 PM
159	I'd like a lot of things in life-- but I can't have them. Let's GET REAL about COSTS in this town! I volunteer here, I support our local businesses, I'm a helpful neighbor...but I simply cannot afford to keep paying more and more and more EVERY YEAR in taxes!!!!	10/28/2016 3:58 PM
160	I do not think the funding for the option of closing Hardy and building two mega-schools would pass in a Town election. People come to Wellesley for a small town feel, not a Cambridge aura. We also have to do something about the traffic! Why don't more kids walk????	10/28/2016 3:33 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

161	I am very concerned about the traffic impacts to the neighborhood behind the existing Upham School is a much larger school is built. what would be the traffic pattern? Would the car entrance be on Dukes Road? I am perplexed as to why you would build a very large Upham School when it is located in the middle of an existing neighborhood. Other school locations are convenient to major routes. Upham is, by far, the school with the location that is right smack in the middle of a quiet neighborhood.	10/28/2016 3:16 PM
162	I hope the redistricting in the future will be less politicized than the previous Bates redistricting. That was done in a totally underhanded manner. Many in the "pink Pocket" area were given a "head's up" to start walking their kids to Bates so that they would be considered "walkers". Additionally, the school committee never considered the "walk to" location of the Pilgrim Road/Cleveland Road streets in proximity to Hardy to School. Formerly in the 1950's and 60's the kids in this area walked to Hardy. If the town wanted to stick with "walkers" when redistricting this should have been considered....Instead the Manor Avenue area was redistricted to Hardy...hardly a Neighborhood School....Still not happy about the way this was presented as a done deal with no input.	10/28/2016 3:14 PM
163	We moved to Wellesley specifically because it offers excellent, neighborhood schools, AND because the elementary age children can walk or bike to school.	10/28/2016 3:10 PM
164	I think it would be very important to make Upham and to have some of the traffic on Weston road moved to the side streets by Upham. I think its sad to have to tear down and replace some of Hunnewell but I think its necessary to make the school larger.	10/28/2016 2:29 PM
165	I believe the supports of three schools are much more outspoken--but not necessarily any more numerous--than the supporters of two schools. The fact that these supporters come out for HHU forums in far greater numbers is not surprising, but it shouldn't be taken as a representative sample of the town's sentiment. If the question was framed along the lines of "Are you willing to spend an additional \$xx million of the town's resources and \$y million in additional annual operating costs to renovate/replace all three schools?", I believe folks would have a much better sense for the trade-offs involved here.	10/28/2016 2:19 PM
166	I grew up in Wellesley and feel that the population estimates in no way can be accurate. Time and time again the number of school age children has decreased only to increase and I believe that shutting down schools will in the long run cost the town much more monetarily as well as a downturn in the rankings for our schools.	10/28/2016 2:04 PM
167	I hope parents keep in mind that while they cherish the traditions that they have experienced with their kids, the kids will be fine with whatever environment and traditions they know....its what is best for all in the town not sentimental traditions for parents.	10/28/2016 1:53 PM
168	One of the most significant goals of education at all levels should be the good example of living within one's means, not borrowing against the future. It is also vital to remember and model the conviction that it is the dedication and seriousness of purpose of the administrators, teachers, parents and children and their focus on rigorous academic standards that will best prepare children for accomplishment, for self-reliance and for freedom in an increasingly challenging world.	10/28/2016 12:55 PM
169	I believe the cost to the town is the most important thing here and that taxes are already too high. I believe Hardy and Sprague should be renovated not rebuilt. I think Upham should be rebuilt and enlarged to incorporate overflow from other areas of town. Adding higher taxes at this time will hurt and affect many residents of the town.	10/28/2016 12:32 PM
170	We wanted to respond to survey within your 2 day deadline but we were actually not aware of the project - we don't get the local paper anymore. Our responses are therefore off the cuff at this point and we will need to look into the issues more carefully.	10/28/2016 11:50 AM
171	Please do whatever has the least increase in real estate taxes.	10/28/2016 11:45 AM
172	I am disgusted by a pattern we have developed in this town of spending time and money to evaluate a need, some people then complaining they don't like the results, and the town then either scrapping it in the face of adversity, or deciding to spend more time and more money to reopen the process. THAT is a massive waste of our tax dollars and creates stress and waster time for all. We need to develop a backbone - if we know we had a good process in place, and if we gave the experts and the community fair notice and time to participate - there is nothing more to do! Those that don't participate until they don't like the results should not be allowed to block and rehash the process and it's completion. We saw this with redistricting - needed but never done because of opposition to the plan. We saw this with North 40 We saw this with the Church parcel on Route 9 And now we are seeing it in it's worst in carnation with the HHU plan. We do our town and it's children a great disservice if we allow every well thought out and researched nd developed plan to be sidetracked by those that don't like the result because it might expose them to change.	10/28/2016 11:11 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

173	The amount of time and acrimony spent on this project is approaching ridiculous. School Committee did not do its job well of advising our Superintendent. That people would get hot under the collar about the demise of a beloved neighborhood school was PREDICTABLE. Does that mean we should not do it? NO. What is does signify is that the process should have been more transparent from the beginning. All that said, what seem to be key points moving forward? In my opinion: (1) We need lower operating costs and efficiencies of scale for our schools. (2) The current traffic impact of the Hardy car line on Weston Rd. is unacceptable (3) Hardy is a beloved school in a high denisty student neighborhood; construction of a school on the current town property there with access from a street OTHER THAN Weston Rd. seems a sound idea. (4) Grade school parents have an outsized voice in this town and often fail to look forward to the more important portion of their childrens' educational careers: high school. Our students would be much better served with a Computer Science Dept. and better math/science teachers at WHS than with any version of expensive elementary schools.	10/28/2016 9:42 AM
174	The current schools are already better than a lot more other towns, I am very satisfied with Wellesley public schools.	10/28/2016 9:38 AM
175	We are new to town and have fallen in love with the small-neighborhood school model in Wellesley. We have two children in Hardy, and a younger child who will start elementary school in 2 years. We hope the smaller-neighborhood school model is retained, and would support 3 schools over consolidating into 2. Having said that, if keeping Hardy on its current site would be too difficult given swing-space concerns, I would support the construction of a new Hardy on the North 40 site, provided that the school seek to serve under 400 students.	10/28/2016 9:14 AM
176	I think we need to focus on the limits of our resources and how best to spend them to achieve first class education in Wellesley. Rebuilding and maintaining three smaller elementary schools is nice in principle bit in and of itself does not improve the quality of education which can be equally or better accomplished with two larger schools. I would prefer to see our funds invested in the quality and number of teachers including smaller class size and more educational tools which really would benefit our children while being mindful that the tax cost of the alternative two school approach is excessive.	10/28/2016 9:12 AM
177	Thanks for the survey. Except for the expenses for maintaining schools, I don't want to see additional costs.	10/28/2016 8:15 AM
178	Keep all costs down	10/27/2016 8:39 PM
179	Control the SOFT COSTS TOO much money spent on professionals!	10/27/2016 8:31 PM
180	Let us, the tax payers decide how we want to spend our money now and let's save time and money from the SFC by listening to what tax payers want and taking steps from there. And furthermore there seems to be a big conflict of interest if voting members on the committee are the ones behind the proposals.	10/27/2016 8:22 PM
181	Any final solution should also contain a rider that no current education system employee will ever get their name on a building. This reeks of legacy Nameplating.	10/27/2016 8:02 PM
182	This survey is less than half a tail wagging a whole dog: HHU comprises 3 out of 9 public buildings within 1 public school system. Number of schools, class size, and construction should be based on sound educational principles and sound fiscal realities that serve the entire town well into the future. Decisions should NOT be driven by nostalgia, nor by the blip of time in which the current HHU parents will have children in the WPS system, nor by the perceived real estate values for homes in so-called "walkable" school districts.	10/27/2016 7:45 PM
183	The Town had money to buy the North 40 and St. James Church and numerous private homes at inflated prices, let them now eat cake.	10/27/2016 7:33 PM
184	The town will always get pushback with big projects that require taxes to increase, but we owe it to our children to invest in improving our school facilities.	10/27/2016 5:59 PM
185	Control the project costs. Wellesley wastes too much money on unnecessary projects. For example, the senior center is a waste of money. The purchase of the church lands were a waste of taxpayer dollars.	10/27/2016 5:58 PM
186	Why not build a new school behind Hardy while children continued to attend the existing school, and then tear down Hardy when done?	10/27/2016 5:50 PM
187	Feel very very strongly that natural borders (rt 9) should be respected and that Wellesley should maintain 2 elementary schools north of rt 9	10/27/2016 5:48 PM
188	We are concerned about recent construction projects in Wellesley that have had a significant impact on our property taxes, and appear to have cost more than needed.	10/27/2016 5:39 PM
189	We moved to Wellesley for the schools. Specifically, the small elementary schools that we could walk to with our children. We have met more people in the community through drop off and pickup than we had the two years prior to our children enrolling in kindergarten. If you had told us that we would pay what we had paid for our house, but that we would have to sit in a carline, we never would have moved here.	10/27/2016 5:22 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

190	The Town is a wonderful place to live. Community-based elementary schools are a part of what attracted us to town many years ago. We need more school sites not fewer. I understand the financial efficiencies of consolidation but the traffic problems in town are getting worse every year not better. All the years I have lived in town I have wondered why the town does not have a coherent long-range planning committee that addresses all major capital projects. We need one badly.	10/27/2016 5:15 PM
191	If one of the schools does close, what will happen to the site? What will it be used for? What is the timeline regarding decision making ? Will the town be voting to make a decision ? Who has the final say?	10/27/2016 5:05 PM
192	I fully support consolidation for some of the elementary schools if that is the lowest cost (capital and ongoing operational costs) that meets classroom educational requirements.	10/27/2016 4:22 PM
193	How are other space needs being described in the planning? (Sped, music, art, specialized programs) Currently thspese programs use Classrooms.	10/27/2016 4:16 PM
194	If one of the schools is closed, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE SITE? It is important that the land not be over-developed and that the character of the neighborhood, including open space and playgrounds, be maintained.	10/27/2016 3:16 PM
195	The final choice will affect home values of those homes that are not within walk-able distance to an elementary school. This should be a factor that is considered.	10/27/2016 3:15 PM
196	No	10/27/2016 2:58 PM
197	See #26.	10/27/2016 2:09 PM
198	My opinion is that it is totally fiscally irresponsible to plan an event of such burdensome cost at this time as the economic environment is not stable. Also, I believe that focusing on curriculum and hiring appropriate staff is a better investment than building a new school. A new school building will not upgrade Wellesley's school rating. Additionally, the environmental impact on green space, should be considered. As an aside to the above - The new municipal building included either a wood burning stove or fireplace at which workers were hovering during my last visit. As an employee in the private sector in a couple of prestigious buildings in Boston - never did we have the luxury of a working fireplace. Not the best use of tax payer money.	10/27/2016 1:37 PM
199	See #26	10/27/2016 11:34 AM
200	We moved to Wellesley because of the neighborhood school system. We bought our home so that our kids could walk to and from school everyday. Which they do. Three schools with 18 sections each would be the only plan that I would vote for because Bigger schools are not better for our children. Bigger schools lead to increase bullying, lower MCAS scores, increase traffic at pick up and drop off times and most importantly children who need extra help getting lost. Tearing down our woods should not be an option. Our wonderful woods are what makes Wellesley so beautiful. Also I will not vote for a two school plan because removing a school would decrease the value of our home and I will not vote for a plan that will decrease the value of my home especially when you are asking me to pay higher taxes.	10/27/2016 11:14 AM
201	Combining two schools into a mega-school is not in keeping with suburban Wellesley. Perhaps in an urban area with limited real estate , such consolidation is necessary, but not here. Current zoning prohibits massive apartment buildings and zoning was changed to limit the footprint of new homes in comparison to the lot size. So, it seems massive structures and densely spaced homes is not in keeping with the wishes of the town people/government. I appreciate the necessity for a large Middle School and a large High School for economies of scale in facilities and curriculum. Elementary schools should be smaller and more welcoming.	10/27/2016 11:07 AM
202	Having been at Fiske for many years, the neighborhood has gone through proposals to close other schools--Phillips, Kingsbury, Brown, Warren.... Each closure has affected Fiske. Each time there has been a lot of uproar and each time parents have ultimately accepted the change. I do admit that having a neighborhood school available to my children in the 1970's was great, but this is the new millenium and times have changed.	10/27/2016 10:54 AM
203	I believe that all three should be maintained at their existing locations. This is a truer version of the neighborhood school model versus consolidating into two larger schools. I also believe younger children grow and thrive better in a smaller, more localized setting. 18 sections feels like the optimal size, allowing flexibility for balancing out classroom diversity and maintaining extra space to grow if necessary. When I bought into Wellesley, one of my key criteria was the location of the property to the grade school. I purchased a home within walking distance, and am very please with the outcome. I also feel eliminating a school will have a dramatic impact on property values in the area. I don't want any of the schools to close and I will not vote to support a consolidation option.	10/27/2016 10:35 AM
204	Emotions should not play a huge part in this decision. And that 50% of students are split evenly between north and south of route 9 and leaving only one school above route 9 would only create issues in the future and make a "neighborhood" school impossible. These schools need to be fixed and a larger school would not hurt the community.	10/27/2016 10:12 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

205	<p>The current state of HHU does not reflect current educational goals. We need proper, safe and accessible space to meet the educational needs of our students today and in the future. The current state of these schools does not meet modern educational needs (no separate cafeteria, no space for Special Ed, no auditorium, etc.). Neighborhood schools are critical to the educational and social well being of school aged children. Smaller schools close to homes provide the opportunity for a strong community base. These communities will be more likely to support their school both by volunteering and by making financial contributions to the local PTOs. People will feel more invested in their school's success and further allow for a meaningful partnership between the school district and families. With that in mind, The renovation of HHU needs to move forward in the most educationally prudent way, recognizing that it will be a tough transition and financial burden for many families. However, besides the issue that these renovations are long overdue, we already do NOT have neighborhood schools. Sections of Upham and Hunnewell are bussed to Sprague and the policy to close full class sections at certain schools creates a 'spot-redistricting' that will have long term consequences of breaking up neighborhood schools even further. We need to come up with a plan that addresses the poor condition of these schools and then do a complete redistricting of the entire town, not just the HHU areas. The plan must be educationally sound. The current state of 2 classes per grade at Hunnewell and Upham is not the best when trying to make educationally meaningful groupings (there are just not enough options for students to be shuffled each year). Additionally, having 3 classes per grade allows for meaningful professional learning communities among teachers at each grade level, in each building. While 3 classes per grade is the magic number, we also need to allow for overflow in case we have a district that has an unexpected higher enrollment and we can then push a grade level to 4 classes. That way, families stay in their local schools, we no longer need the policy to spot-close sections and we can maintain (or even reduce!) the classroom guidelines for student number per class. So much good work has already been done to address these issues and I thank the people who have worked tirelessly to come up with a plan that, while difficult for some makes the most sense for the long term. Please do not let a small minority of highly vocal residents ruin the good work that has already been done. We have already wasted too much time and money all the while our buildings remain in their current poor conditions.</p>	10/27/2016 9:28 AM
206	<p>If we truly put kids at the center, we will maintain our neighborhood schools. Schools are the heart and soul of a community. What would the impact on the community be if one were to close? Also, I would ask HHU to consider implications for equity. Hardy neighborhoods encompass some of the most socio-economically and ethnically diverse areas of town. Would this same conversation be happening at Upham? Bates?</p>	10/27/2016 8:46 AM
207	<p>I support the thinking that led to this plan. However, I know very little about Hardy and the accompanying community. And, I've only heard the negative perception of the Upham community. I wish to maintain Hunnewell and its community.</p>	10/27/2016 8:07 AM
208	<p>I strongly believe that a new larger school that combines 2 of the existing schools is the best option because it could offer lots of academic/program flexibility for the future. I fear there will be too much value engineering in a new 3 school approach and we'll end up only with updated versions of what we have.....vs building a new big school where we can take advantage of many new ideas, technologies, and proven trends.</p>	10/26/2016 10:59 PM
209	<p>I work in the commercial construction industry and will seek out opportunities to volunteer to help the town in their review process. Thank you for the survey -- I hope there is a way to renovate or upgrade the existing 3 schools to balance high construction costs with the needs of all stake holders. However, given the very large recent expense to purchase the North 40 it seems a precedent to spend where the town deems it is needed has been set.</p>	10/26/2016 10:59 PM
210	<p>We strongly support saving our 7 neighborhood schools.</p>	10/26/2016 10:47 PM
211	<p>Please consider what is best for the children. I can't imagine my kid in a giant 4 section school. We had the luxury of a walkable, neighborhood school and the calmness associated with it will stay with her over her lifetime. Driving across town to go to school is not beneficial to anyone and is NOT why many residents chose to move here.</p>	10/26/2016 10:07 PM
212	<p>Important that three schools be kept!!! Absolutely not in favor of construction at Upham that will involve removal of "forest" trees and the blasting of ledge; in favor of expansion and remodeling of current building.</p>	10/26/2016 9:54 PM
213	<p>We will not vote for a debt exclusion that does not support a 3 school option. Closing Hardy and doubling the size of Upham will negatively impact those neighborhoods and families. We have signed the petition against the MPC plan to close Hardy and build super Upham -- and will continue to express our deep concerns over this short-sighted plan.</p>	10/26/2016 9:47 PM
214	<p>We have put so much money into renovation of the high school. Now let's not shortchange the youngest students. Let's support them where they start out, and we'll continue to see good students and good work as they progress through the system.</p>	10/26/2016 9:35 PM
215	<p>In order to cut costs down, how about something similar to Property Brothers where the community can volunteer to help with renovations of the schools?</p>	10/26/2016 9:01 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

216	<p>If we go to the town with a three school the proposal will be dismissed and not approved. We all know how difficult we had to push to get behind last year's override. Asking tax payers to pay an additional 5M+ to the already expensive cost will set people over the edge. People who no longer have children in school are not close enough to the situation to think rationally about our school conditions. Understandably they are thinking about their bottom line. The point that needs to be made very clear during the proposal to the town is that putting off making a decision and making the vote to go forward puts all of us in danger of Wellesley not be a town in which you want to buy your home. It is already difficult for people to sell their homes because of this ridiculous educational mess, and selling them at the price they should be getting is not happening. Sitting on doing the right thing makes it that much worse. At the end of this process this needs to be it. Done and done. There need not be yet ANOTHER study performed to tell us what we already know because people don't like the outcome. The schools have already been allowed to go in to a deplorable state and as it stands new buildings won't be completed before the early 2020s. It is understandable what people are fighting for but at the same time the neighborhood school concept will still be maintained....Hardy families should roll in to Sprague. Anyone between Rt9 and 135 should attend Sprague.</p>	10/26/2016 8:43 PM
217	<p>Keep taxes down!</p>	10/26/2016 7:12 PM
218	<p>Traffic is a huge issue in Wellesley. It should be a major factor in decision-making for this project.</p>	10/26/2016 6:39 PM
219	<p>I'm surprised, yet again, that there is no mention of, or question about, the importance of the obvious educational advantages to smaller schools, ones that are no larger than 18 sections with approximately 400 students maximum. I don't think this decision should be made in order to make the work of the administration easier. We should be concerned above all with creating the best educational environment for our children. Our schools, tho' they are already in some cases getting larger, are wonderful with admirable records of achievement. Let's not jeopardize what we have...it has been an excellent formula. In fact, one of our largest schools right now, Sprague, just slipped in its performance ranking....does that have anything to do with the size? This is certainly a worthy question for us to consider.</p>	10/26/2016 6:26 PM
220	<p>Very averse to consolidating into fewer schools. Neighborhood schools and walkability are major reasons we moved to Wellesley in the first place. Should be less about preserving what a building physically looked like in 1940 versus preserving the culture of a walking school, everyone knows one another feel that makes Wellesley a unique, wonderful, warm place to live. Consolidate the schools, you kill the unique culture. More than happy to pay our fair share of taxes to support this now and when are kids are out of school Would strongly consider leaving wellesley or sending all our children to private schools if a major consolidation happened. Wellesley has voted to make a major capital investment in a senior center, but somehow seems unwilling to invest in preserving this unique culture for our kids and no one has made a solid case for why this is better from an education standpoint for our kids which is THE point. So net if I were sitting in your boardroom and heard, let's double down investing in the elderly and trim as much cost as we can from our youth's education, you might guess how I'd vote. Is it that everyone on this committee is elderly that this has come up?</p>	10/26/2016 5:40 PM
221	<p>What about St. Paul School as another elementary school?</p>	10/26/2016 3:07 PM
222	<p>Wellesley is a neighborhood town with neighborhood schools- excellent neighborhood schools, in fact. That's a wonderfully unique aspect of this New England community. Many other places in the country, such as rural areas, do not have neighborhood schools because their community is not set up in neighborhoods like Wellesley. However, for us, neighborhood schools have been necessary and successful. Our schools are among the top in the Commonwealth. To change this dynamic would destroy the fundamental framework of our education system which has proven to be a superior model. This system was not broken, and thus, did not need to be tampered with or repaired. Leave the neighborhood schools alone and let our kids continue to learn, thrive, flourish and excel like they've been doing in their own neighborhood schools for years.</p>	10/26/2016 2:31 PM
223	<p>I think people Move to Wellesley for the neighborhood schools/ feeling. It's a real community. Yes I think the 3 schools should be renovated but to close all 3 would be detriment to the community. The traffic is already brutal in this town.</p>	10/26/2016 2:19 PM
224	<p>Really hoping for a three school solution, son has loved his Hardy experience so far especially walking home, having friends in neighborhood to play with, ease of doing play dates and getting to know neighbors</p>	10/26/2016 1:54 PM
225	<p>- We moved to Wellesley for its smaller, walkable neighborhood schools. - Creating mega-elementary schools is not an attractive model for Massachusetts communities and will negatively impact real estate values. - Wellesley kids have middle school and high school to adjust to and experience larger school environments. Keep childhood/elementary at the smaller level. - Modern building learning clearly is not a superior model when the one modern elementary school Sprague has the lowest test scores as evidenced-by the recent test results. - Bringing elementary schools up to code as was done to other schools in town is all that is needed. Fancy, modern, expensive schools are not necessary at the elementary level. - Almost no one that has children in the school system supports a super school model. If the user/client has no desire for a super school model, why is that model even in the plan? The current system works, do not break it.</p>	10/26/2016 12:37 PM
226	<p>Thank you for working so hard. Our family really appreciates all your time and dedication to this process.</p>	10/26/2016 7:21 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

227	A reasonable plan that preserves all three schools (HHU) but works to renovate the existing buildings and bring them up to code / existing standards should be part of the consideration. The budget impact of doing this will likely be less than the cost of the consolidation to 2 larger schools (building a new school at Upham and expanding Hunnewell). A plan that revolves around updating all three schools in question will preserve our community and the Wellesley neighborhood school model.	10/25/2016 10:46 PM
228	Neighborhood schools are the backbone of Wellesley's strong community feel and attractiveness to future residents. Through our neighborhood elementary schools, we create a sense of belongingness in working toward a common goal of educating the kids we see every day in our yards. Because of this, Wellesley is not just another "bedroom community" outside of Boston -- it is a vibrant, neighborhood-centered town where people feel connected to each other. The neighborhood schools play a large part in fostering this connectedness. Scattering children would decrease the sense of belonging -- not only for the students, but for the whole family -- parental involvement at the schools (which is a hallmark of Wellesley's school system) would decrease/disappear as people become less connected with their neighborhood and school. This would decrease the quality of education.	10/25/2016 9:52 PM
229	PAWS: I find it terribly irresponsible not to include PAWS in the planning process of Wellesley's Elementary schools. PAWS is significantly growing, is an important part of the Wellesley Public School system and should most definitely be part of the plans!	10/25/2016 9:48 PM
230	I am extremely concerned with the lack of discussion on what is the best way to educate our children. Study after study proves that smaller schools (not just smaller class sizes) offer educational benefits for kids. Schools with 400 or fewer students actually produce better test scores, not to mention better student participation (confidence!), better relationships between students and teachers, a higher parent volunteer rate and less bullying. This should be the number one priority and focus of this plan! How is this not being factored into this decision?? The administration constantly talks about how they want to have enough classes per grade to be able to selectively place kids in sections and to have teachers collaborate. Why do we need MORE than 3-classes per grade to achieve this?? The solution is simple. Rebuild all three schools and enlarge them... but not too big. Build them to have NO MORE than 18 sections, which is roughly 400 or fewer kids. This increases the current sizes, for the conveniences the Administration is looking for, yet still maintains the educational benefits of a small school. I'm sure the response to this might be: but it's too expensive to build three schools. Well, honestly, it's too expensive to build two schools also! But if we're going to raise everyone's taxes it has to be to improve our school system, not to make it less desirable with larger schools. And this is coming from a fiscally conservative voter. Instead of saving on the fundamental structure of our school system, perhaps the Administration could consider shelving overrides for new program initiatives that are beyond budget? A prioritization of spending needs to occur and the actual buildings we put our children in comes first. If we want to be fiscally responsible, why are we not considering incorporating the PAWS program into our elementary schools? PAWS needs more space (which is another reason to question the enrollment studies). Millions of dollars would be saved on the reno or new building (and continued maintenance) of a stand-alone PAWS, if instead we aimed to have one PAWS classroom at each of the 3 new elementary schools. The benefits are numerous: - Reduced traffic. Parents no longer drive to a single PAWS location, but could drive (or walk!) shorter distances to their closest neighborhood school. - Children get the advantage of being introduced to their neighborhood schools earlier. Teachers know the families/students earlier and longer. The majority of our non-typically developing students from PAWS continue on into our elementary schools. This allows them to feel comfortable in their environment longer. - Special Ed staff already exists in elementary schools. Yes, more might be needed. But additional staff could also split time between locations. It's not the most convenient for the adults, but we're building schools for the benefit of kids, not adults. - The incorporation of PAWS children who have special needs into the elementary schools is a wonderful way to teach diversity and acceptance to our elementary school children. - Many schools already have successful 5th Grade Buddy and paired reading programs, where the oldest students are mentors and form friendships with the youngest. This could be benefit the preschool program too. Similar successful results are seen at a larger scale at the High School with their Child Lab program. We missed a HUGE opportunity to not incorporate the Senior Center within one of our school buildings (as was successfully done in Swampscott). Let's not miss this opportunity with PAWS being incorporated into our neighborhood schools permanently. I've heard so many committee members try to guess what TMMs will say when faced with approving "too much" space. But have they considered the ramifications of not having enough space in all areas of town? So many neighboring towns are either facing huge enrollment surges and they are currently forced to make rushed and expensive decisions (and these are not just towns with new apartment complexes). Let's not set ourselves up to be in this position. Think beyond Town Meeting and consider the debt exclusion for this project. Where will your strongest vote come from? You have a certain percentage of our residents who will vote NO on any plan that raises taxes as significantly as even just the 2-school plan will. So you've already lost them no matter which plan moves forward. With a 2-school plan, do you really want to add to that group with those who will vote NO, because they don't want to lose a school? And then add those who'll vote NO to retain smaller schools lost with consolidation? Doesn't the least risk go with a 3-school plan where each neighborhood retains what they've already supported with every past, successful school override? If it helps you assess your tolerance for risk, I'll confirm with you now that I'll be voting NO on a debt exclusion that does not include a 3-school plan. I hope to be able to vote YES for our schools and encourage many residents to do the same. Please offer a plan that will allow me to do this. Thank you.	10/25/2016 7:37 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

231	I feel that it is very important for young children to have comfortable surroundings, their home, their neighborhood, their friend's homes. The walk to and from school should be doable and provide exercise and independence.	10/25/2016 5:40 PM
232	Listening to the meetings and presentations, I heard a lot about what the administration would like for their convenience of running the schools. But what I have not heard is the research into what size school is the best learning environment for elementary school children. Shouldn't THAT be our first priority? I'm amazed that this hasn't been a topic of conversation. Research shows that the recommended size for an elementary school is between 300-400 students. Schools in that range show better academic achievement, student behavior and attitudes, to list just a few. I cannot support any plan that would call for closing a school and consolidating the student population into a larger school. So I will vote NO on any debt exclusion that is not funding a 3-school solution. Larger elementary schools would forever change the face of Wellesley Public Schools. And given the fact that most of us moved here for the schools, I don't think we want to take that risk.	10/25/2016 5:25 PM
233	Location of Upham does not seem to be convenient to many Wellesley residents. Even people who live near Upham don't seem to go to that school. Traffic near Hardy is bad now and impacts those of us who live on the other side of Route 9. I often can't get onto Weston Road to travel to Route 9 to take my child to WHS without significant delays due to the backups created by those driving to Hardy.	10/25/2016 10:52 AM
234	The modular classrooms at Hardy and Hunnewell (and Schofield!) are no longer appropriate "temporary fixes". We need better long-term vision for our schools -- one that brings equity / parity among the 7 (or 6) neighborhood elementary schools.	10/25/2016 10:20 AM
235	I feel that if any school district should be forced to drive to a new elementary school, it should be Upham, because I don't think that very many families chose to live in that area with the ability to walk places as a priority. Whereas I think many Hardy and Hunnewell families do choose their homes, not just to be able to walk to elementary school, but because they value a pedestrian lifestyle.	10/25/2016 12:16 AM
236	Whatever the final outcome is, it will impact the town broadly and be hard on a good portion of the town on many levels. That said, whatever the path, kids are flexible and resilient and all of us parents could benefit from following their lead. Thank you for your efforts in the process. Hopefully it will yield a better ultimate result.	10/24/2016 11:36 PM
237	Closing neighborhood schools will drop property values. We have invested a significant amount of our lives and income on mortgage for homes here and we will suffer significant loss, if house values drop.	10/24/2016 10:14 PM
238	The school community is much more than the building itself. Please do not change these communities in the name of having new buildings/locations.	10/24/2016 8:47 PM
239	It is important to maintain the neighborhood character of the schools in Wellesley, even at a slightly higher cost.	10/24/2016 7:01 PM
240	It is very important to look at the town's OVERALL plans on a higher level when the decisions about the elementary schools are being decided. For example, what happens to any land/buildings that are not used (if any)? What will be done with the North 40 land if it's not used for the schools? The big picture is important! I have a personal reason for adding this comment as my home is very close to the Hardy School, and I'd be concerned if the Hardy building were used for something other than a school turning our neighborhood into a more commercial zone than a residential zone. Swing space is another concern. I think the swing space decisions are very important. I've heard St Paul's school being discussed as swing space. I can't imagine the St Paul's school space would serve the needs we have as it is a very small space without a playground and on a small, tight street. The carline/traffic issues alone might deem it unusable. Next, IF WE HAVE TO CONSOLIDATE DOWN TO 2 ELEMENTARIES, I hope that opportunity costs are being considered for the existing school locations. It seems hard to believe that Hunnewell's location could not bring great profit to our town (new businesses perhaps that could generate tax revenue for the town). In addition, the value of the land in the Upham district is worth a great deal more than the land where Hardy currently sits. Could the Upham land be reconfigured into a few large homes that would generate a lot of property taxes? This additional revenue could help supplement the costs of the new school buildings/construction. Finally, I am hopeful that the committee is considering building modular schools to bring the construction costs way down. There are some amazing modular schools being built in California and other states in the US. I hope the committee will consider this as a viable option. Perhaps this would allow our town to keep all three schools at a lower overall cost to the taxpayers of the town. Thank you for your time!	10/24/2016 5:20 PM
241	Being in the Upham neighborhood, I understand the impact of traffic and having to cross back-and-forth over Route 9 several times a day. I think this project should seek to reduce traffic in town. I don't think bussing all over town is a great option as it doesn't allow walking and a community feel on the playground among families. It's important to keep neighborhoods together in the same school.	10/24/2016 5:20 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

242	<p>We as a district should take better care of the facilities that we do have. Though I understand the current elementary schools are out of date, I strongly believe that if "we" kept up with maintenance of these facilities through the years we'd have more (and less costly) choices at this point in time. The old high school for example was a disgrace. People maintain beautiful homes that are 100 plus years old. Why can't that be the case for our schools? Also there is no sense of pride around our school properties because they are not taken care of. For example the high school and sprague are our newest and nicest properties. When I go to those places in the summer, the lawn is overgrown and I never see any facility people working on the grounds or in the buildings. We work to so hard to have our children have pride in their community, in their school, yet everyday we send them into sub par facilities because we can decide how to spend money wisely. As you can tell I am generally disgusted about the current situation we find ourselves in. We just can't throw money at every problem. It seems it may be too late for this particular problem but lets do something so we are not repeating the same mistakes. Admittedly I don't know the inner workings of the school budget but my guess is that the facility maintenance budget is woefully small. I am disgusted that we now have to pay for years of neglect.</p>	10/24/2016 4:32 PM
243	<p>Upham is nestled into a residential area. It should never be doubled (or more) in size. The traffic on the small, winding streets would increase significantly; it is already quite dangerous for walking in the area (as we do not have consistent sidewalks and the speeding traffic, construction, landscape vehicles are horribly unfriendly to walkers &amp; bikers). We moved to Wellesley and specifically to the Upham district due to the small, neighborhood schools &amp; walkability. We've had one child go through Upham (K-5) and have two others there, now. They have all thrived in the small, close unit community. They love knowing all of the teachers and most of the students. A huge Upham would be detrimental to the neighborhood, as well as to the children attending the school.</p>	10/24/2016 4:29 PM
244	<p>Good schools are important, but so is controlling costs</p>	10/24/2016 4:11 PM
245	<p>Small local schools!</p>	10/24/2016 4:11 PM
246	<p>in discussing the North 40 in this survey you fail to mention the traffic concerns that would arise besides losing the trees. I am very concerned about traffic there.</p>	10/24/2016 3:54 PM
247	<p>We need elementary schools near where children live that keep them from having to cross major roads without a crossing guard. When I used to walk my kids to Hardy, I got to spend quality time with them, meet the neighbors and get a little exercise --- something for which I am eternally grateful.</p>	10/24/2016 3:40 PM
248	<p>Don't let nostalgia and the love of every single tree stymie otherwise rational decision-making.</p>	10/24/2016 3:21 PM
249	<p>Why don't any of the plans discuss expanding the Bates school and redistricting some of the Hardy kids who live close to Bates so that they can attend Bates which would be closer to the other schools? Bates should be expanded. They have land and their location is very convenient to many homes currently in the Hardy district. Please consider this.</p>	10/24/2016 3:13 PM
250	<p>It is imperative that you retain all of the neighborhood schools. A huge Upham will be a nightmare for the children and DESTROY the neighborhood feel of the schools in Wellesley. I would NEVER have moved here if that was the layout of the schools. We moved here for the NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS!!!!!!!</p>	10/24/2016 2:38 PM
251	<p>I am in strong support of the small, walkable neighborhood school model, where most school capacities are targeted to 3 classrooms per grade. As Wellesley has such a large school system, I think preserving the current elementary school model is crucial to keeping families in the public school system, and ensuring the success of our elementary school children. I'm not convinced that the enrollment projections are accurate, and I don't think that closing a school is necessary, or advisable. I am strongly opposed to the proposed re-districting possibilities that will accompany the consolidation process as well. Please keep all of the smaller neighborhood schools intact, and allow our Wellesley families to happily remain in our homes, our town, and our public schools!</p>	10/24/2016 2:18 PM
252	<p>I think a sustainable re-districting policy is fundamental to this decision. There can be no gerrymandering with our school districts. We should have the districts re-drawn, be in line with the capacity of the new schools and a policy established for "swing" neighborhoods. Our current districts are not well drawn, so we need to clean them up before committing to "neighborhood" schools. 3 classrooms per grade seems like the right number to me. I would also like to see the proposal to have less principals and more senior admin staff as a model to help with expenses as I like the idea of multiple elementary schools, but we have to get a handle on costs across the board for the town to remain excellent. Is one of the criteria for the HHU project to elevate the Wellesley Public schools to become the #1 school district in the state? If not, it should be. We have the resources, we have the town support, and we have the history, so I think we should chase that vision rather than thinking incrementally about the next 2 or 3 years.</p>	10/24/2016 2:07 PM
253	<p>I support a plan that maintains all three schools in their current locations. I think the ideal size for elementary school students is a three section school, not any larger. Having neighborhoods schools where a lot of families can walk is so important for community building, healthy lifestyle, and reducing environmental impacts. Having schools that are three sections is the right size for these young elementary schools students. It makes them feel save, supported by teachers and peers, connects them to the the community, and fosters an environment where they can be can be the most successful - academically, socially and personally. It also created an environment where the parents are more connected to each other, to the students, and to the teachers, administrators and staff. Maintaining the three schools is the most important thing and that should be prioritized over everything else.</p>	10/24/2016 12:09 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

254	Several years ago, plans were developed to renovate Hardy (and I believe close Upham). What happened to those plans? Have they been revisited? Hardy has plenty of land to build a new school next to the present school so students could still attend classes while a new school was constructed. Has much consideration been given to developing part of the North 40 for an new school?	10/24/2016 11:39 AM
255	The Town of Wellesley needs to have 2 schools (I.e., Bates and Upham) on the North side of rte 9. Asking families to bus or have their kids walk across rte 9 at the elementary school age seems like a very bad plan from a safety standpoint (the savings isn't worth it, if even 1 child get's hit by a car!) Plus, I think it will hurt real estate values in the town if Wellesley becomes a "bus across town" format. And the increased traffic, which is already bad, will become a nightmare! I already can't get my middle school aged child from our neighborhood to the middle school without sitting in bumper to bumper traffic. So DON'T make it worse by adding elementary school aged kids into the mix.	10/24/2016 11:22 AM
256	I think that children should be able to walk to a neighborhood school. For elementary school, it is important that children be in school with others in their neighborhood.	10/24/2016 10:45 AM
257	I will simply repeat that whatever the driving force behind this project, it doesn't reflect current best-practice for children's education and at the same time ignores the prized neighborhood feel that Wellesley should be adamant about retaining lest we loose our sense of community and become a big subdivision of super-sized houses. The plan would likely see a greater drift to private schools as more families move to Wellesley who will not feel the need to support one of our great assets.	10/24/2016 10:31 AM
258	If possible, when doing the renovation projects we would prefer for the temporary school to be on the same property or close to the same property as the existing school- we don't want to have to drive across down for drop-off/pick-up during construction.	10/24/2016 10:27 AM
259	I think we need to look at this as a town-wide issue and not a neighborhood issue. Instead of talking about a 2 or 3 school solution, we should be talking about whether Wellesley needs 6 or 7 elementary schools. I don't believe that schools with less than 2 sections per grade are optimal. If, as I believe the enrollment numbers and projections indicate, we only need 6 schools then we should move directly to a decision on how to make the change to 6 schools in a way that is least disruptive and most cost-effective.	10/24/2016 10:19 AM
260	Please do not add onto Fiske.	10/24/2016 10:06 AM
261	I moved to this town because of its neighborhood schools. My children gained so much from walking to and from school in a group with older children leading the way. I think you would ruin the town by building on large school at the elementary level. I think you really need to evaluate the possibility of rebuilding Hardy and other elementary schools behind the current schools. Another access road to Hardy could be made in in the back of Hardy school. I was appalled to be watching a committee meeting where a gentleman had voluntarily researched and had a power point presentation and was stalled for more than an hour from presenting. This makes me and a whole lot of others feel like your committee has its own agenda and is not open to what the citizens want. Please listen to your citizens!	10/24/2016 10:05 AM
262	To be completely honest, my wife and I just move to Wellesley (Hardy school district) from Boston and had our first child this past summer. We move out from the city and one of the main attraction was the amazing school system that Wellesley has to offer. I dont really know what side of the fence I fall on yet but I just want a safe, easy to get to, updated school system where I know my child will have a great experience. I understand that none of the issues are black and white and that we need to have a compromise. I hope we find that gray area where all can agree.	10/24/2016 9:22 AM
263	I do NOT want any of the schools to close, not a single one. Our kids need neighborhood schools that aren't crowded or more than 3 classes per grade.	10/23/2016 11:11 PM
264	Keep all 3 schools!	10/23/2016 11:05 PM
265	I moved to my house specifically because the school was 2 blocks away and Wellesley is known for its education and its small schools.	10/23/2016 10:08 PM
266	People move to Wellesley for small schools. We certainly did. It feels strange to me that a few years after we moved here the Town is considering consolidating into a larger, more dense/urban model. While I understand there are operational efficiencies in doing so, it defeats the reason that folks like me came here in the first place. Operational efficiency and quality of life are not necessarily aligned in this case. I would be willing to pay more in taxes to support the type of environment smaller, more numerous elementary schools provide.	10/23/2016 10:03 PM
267	The only reason we chose to move to Wellesley, rather than Weston or Dover, was so that our young children could easily get to school without having to take a bus. I feel strongly that elementary school aged children should not be bused. They are too young and vulnerable and I have friends who have temporarily had there children misplaced by bus drivers. Very scary.	10/23/2016 9:26 PM
268	Could the empty St Paul School be used as swing space during construction?	10/23/2016 9:22 PM
269	A safe walk to school -- a neighborhood school -- is quite unique among communities. Kids, dogs, parents - even retired individuals in the neighborhood use this time to connect. It is vital to our kids AND our community. I would pay quite a bit more in taxes to make this happen. In reality, an improved school is one car lease payment for most people.	10/23/2016 8:37 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

270	In case you missed my answer to #27. Here it is again. I wonder whether this survey is biased in the way the questions are set up. I wonder if the people writing the survey were hoping to get certain answers, and so some of the questions are meant to elicit certain responses. I have not seen any questions related to the renovation of the existing schools. Everything seems to be focused on creating two mega schools that are completely out of character to the Wellesley elementary educational process.	10/23/2016 8:16 PM
271	Walking to school is so important. It creates a neighborhood. Kids walk together of all ages. Parents get to know their neighbors in an age when everyone is working. Just come to sprague and stand on the t intersection of pleasant st and the Italian American parking lot. What a great bond has and will be made.kids and parents alike.	10/23/2016 8:15 PM
272	Walkable, neighborhood schools are one of the things that makes Wellesley exceptional, both for children and for their families. Neighborhood schools build tighter communities because parents see each other more frequently when they walk their children to school. (No one stops to chat if they've driven their kids to school.). Please consider a plan that preserves our walkable schools - it's one of the features that truly differentiates us from other towns, and is one of the things that really makes Wellesley great.	10/23/2016 8:12 PM
273	As much as we wish kids would walk to school, parents don't make them do so anymore. Finding a way to encourage walking would justify the need for "neighborhood" schools. Short of that, a "neighborhood" feel can be developed inside any school, where the kids live is almost irrelevant - especially in a town as geographically small as Wellesley. Wellesley schools should conform to the best available models available to maintain the quality of education for which Wellesley is known, and to support real estate prices. However, incurring additional construction/maintenance costs, simply to keep a school in a particular geographical area, or to please one contingent of people, is simply a waste - and no one, regardless of income, should condone wasting tax dollars. It is impossible to accurately predict enrollment for upcoming years. Yes, we can guess based on statistics, but, at a minimum, let's be smart and build multi purpose rooms into new buildings that can be switched to classrooms in heavy enrollment years. And further, why not move beyond the standard school model governing schools for the last 100 years? Really, has all that much changed since the one room school house that we now use as a library? I bet there are some incredibly creative people out there who have radical new ideas to "modernize" education, consider alternate educational styles for upcoming generations and perhaps, if we really allow for a new mind set, suggest that what we may need in the future may not look anything like what we are now discussing.	10/23/2016 6:46 PM
274	Make the decision. The plan needsto be best for the whole town of Wellessly . We only need 6 3 section per graDE ELEMENTARTY SCHOOLS . mAKE THE DECISION LETS MOVE FORWARD. THANKS	10/23/2016 6:22 PM
275	See 26	10/23/2016 11:55 AM
276	We bought our house over 12 years ago specifically because it was within walking distance of an elementary school, and also because there was minimal traffic in local areas compared to what we had seen in other neighboring towns. Please don't eliminate theses benefits that currently make Wellesley a desirable place to live. These benefits also help maintain property values within the town. I am in support to save Wellesley schools, and strongly agree that 3 schools (Hunnewell, Hardy, and Upham) should be rebuilt with 18-classes or fewer, each. I agree with all of the below points the Save All Schools group has made: "Closing a school requires the 2 new buildings to be larger. Research shows smaller elementary schools with 400 or fewer kids (18-classes or fewer per school) produce better student performance and increased student & parent participation, among other benefits... ..The benefits of rebuilding Hardy, Hunnewell and Upham, and increasing them to no more than 3-classes per grade (18 per school), are: - more equitable with Bates, Sprague, Fiske and Schofield. See chart on current school capacities. - roughly 400 or fewer students each, which has proven educational benefits - 2 or 3 classes per grade allows administration to selectively place students in classes and have grade-level teachers collaborate - more elementary schools closer to more families, resulting in an opportunity for more families to walk - not increasing traffic in town, but improving current traffic by redesigning queue lines at each site - minimize redistricting, compared to what would be needed with a closure - extra seats available in more areas of town for otherwise costly future enrollment increases - cost savings a Model School plan might provide (using same design on all 3 sites), as described by architectural firm, SMMA - maintaining property values & reasonable expectations for those who invested in homes based on school attendance zones and proximity to schools "	10/23/2016 10:45 AM
277	KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS, SO CHILDREN CAN WALK TO SCHOOL.	10/22/2016 10:18 PM
278	The ability of children to meet other children in the neighborhood is a very important element in a child's development. They can meet and play together spontaneously after school and on weekends without involving parents to arrange play dates. I believe it helps to empower our children and adds to their independence.	10/22/2016 8:10 PM
279	We moved to Wellesley specifically for the neighborhood schools.	10/22/2016 6:19 PM
280	I appreciate the process being reopened with more input from the community. However, though I have paid attention to the process, it is not being well reported in the press. I learned about this survey only today, Oct. 22, and have concerns that others who care may also be unaware.	10/22/2016 5:33 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

281	Developing land for the schools on North 40 would be a mistake, because it means ruining the ecosystem, and cutting down trees that help trap carbon from the air and filter out toxins from the water and soil. North 40 in its intact state would provide a wonderful educational experience for kids of all ages, to learn to respect the many species of plants and animals that we depend on and that are being extinguished by developers.	10/22/2016 3:14 PM
282	The population in Wellesley has gone up and down for generations and will continue to. Closing any school would be a mistake. Adding a 5th-6th school would be a bonus, Wellesley use to have one. By adding a 5th-6th school on the north 40 or some where closer to the high school would take pressure off all the elementary schools as well as the Middle school. I am third generation of four generations of Wellesley residents. My family has attended Hardy, Brown, Sprague (in the 1950's and 2000's), Bates (as a 5th - 6th school), WMS and WHS. Wellesley has not had a great track record on maintaining their school properties. The old school buildings are built well and should be renovation to meet the current standers. I strongly believe in keeping the old charm of the historic schools like the town did with Sprague school. At all cost maintaining the natural setting of the schools should be preserved. Wellesley it tree town USA, lets keep it that way. Wellesley is well known for it's neighborhood schools, this is why families stay here for generations and others move here.	10/22/2016 1:36 PM
283	I hope all of the neighborhood schools can be saved !!!! Our children's best interests should come first !!! Small children flourish in small school environments; when they are older, they can adjust to the larger environments of the middle and high school. KEEPING ALL SCHOOLS will maintain the important and meaningful "neighborhood sense of community" which is one of the things that make the town of Wellesley so desirable, and provides high- rated educational status. We have had a successful school/educational model for so many years; why change a good thing? Also, historically, the people of Wellesley have wisely supported educational initiatives as they know it protects the values of their homes and businesses.	10/22/2016 1:27 PM
284	We need outdoor spaces and NOT mega big schools.	10/22/2016 12:29 PM
285	Wellesley maintains too many buildings just for the sake of the buildings and history - like the branch libraries. This is a drag on town resources and a waste of taxpayer dollars. We do not need too many or gold plated facilities - I attended a high quality independent school that was barely up to code, but had superb teachers and provided a great education. Our schools are more about people than buildings and we should be spending accordingly.	10/22/2016 10:25 AM
286	Three schools are preferable to two. The \$91M - \$96M should be more than enough to get the three back up to standard. Whatever compromises need to be made to the plan so that we stay within the same budget for the proposed two new larger schools would make it very attractive for residents not as involved or passionate about elementary school education in our town. Nothing should stand in the way of keeping three schools as opposed to two. Tear down trees, ledges, historical buildings. Relocate Hardy to North 40 if necessary. Make it work. Keep it under \$96M and keep three schools. Good luck!!	10/22/2016 8:38 AM
287	I really value the current teacher student ratios in Wellesley. Smaller ratios ensure the students can have assistance in focusing on the fundamental blocks of learning that they will carry with them throughout the remainder of their educational career	10/22/2016 8:16 AM
288	I think that neighborhood schools are a huge part of the Wellesley community. Having a local school brings the district closer together. I know that Hardy definitely had the tightest knit community of parents, teachers, and students of all the schools I attended throughout my time in the Wellesley school system. I think that losing that would be a real blow to the character of Wellesley as a town	10/22/2016 7:49 AM
289	Consider purchasing a building or two such as the Maugus club or an under utilized Wellesley College facility to defray site costs and keep the school system neighborhood oriented.	10/21/2016 10:53 PM
290	NO	10/21/2016 10:35 PM
291	I am strongly opposed to a consolidated school.	10/21/2016 9:35 PM
292	I do agree that in the current state Upham has too small of a student population. I believe a school should not go over 4 sections of a grade.	10/21/2016 9:25 PM
293	Don't do it!	10/21/2016 8:54 PM
294	I would like to better understand why a new school isn't built on all of that wonderful land Hardy has vs. all of the blasting that would have to be done at other locations. Hardy has wonderful fields and areas to play. I would think it is a great candidate for building a new school on that land and demolishing the existing building. Cost to renovate is too much - do what they did with the high school and build new. Wish I'd done that with my house! Costing me more to renovate.	10/21/2016 8:30 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

295	We are giving non-educators too much say in the process. There are many families/ parents in this district that are using this as a political forum or as a way to spend their time, without being educated on the benefits for all students. I would suggest more information on the benefits to children/ students (what we gain) than what is lost. Most people do not disagree with change if they know why/ how the change is beneficial- so more PR would be helpful. Bottom line, students will continue to get a strong education here- no matter where the space is. We trust you as the superintendent to make the best decision for students (not their parents who may or may not have any background or experience in schools (other than their own experience more than 20 years ago). As Sir Ken Robinson shares, everyone has an opinion on schools just because they once went there. Although I appreciate the survey and transparency, if this project is what is right for kids, then move forward. I do think it is a vocal minority who cannot see the big picture. Best of luck... I do not envy your work, and appreciate all that you do... Another educator	10/21/2016 7:59 PM
296	It's elementary school not high school!	10/21/2016 5:15 PM
297	See #26	10/21/2016 5:05 PM
298	Sadly, not everyone will be happy with the outcome. Thanks for your hard work.	10/21/2016 4:24 PM
299	Please consider private fundraising to augment/lessen the taxpayer burden, many of whom will not receive direct benefit from these projects. Please consider phasing the work to lessen the financial impact. Please weight cost more than aesthetics and emotions.	10/21/2016 4:08 PM
300	Please do the rational thing and consolidate to 6 schools, with Route 9 as the obvious separating boundary.	10/21/2016 4:01 PM
301	The only changes I would make to the schools would be to put in lighter colors like light blue tiles rather than all browns. The classrooms are spacious the windows are big and the children have been very happy in the schools for many years so why do we have to keep spending money when it is not necessary. At Hunnewell, they took away the online opportunities to educate our children in different ways because it was too expensive. They do not teach typing and cursive and they are cutting back on gym and art. These problems should be addressed with this money. Wellesley has been far behind and languages for all the grades until now. All of this money needs to go towards increased improved education and increasing the opportunities. I would much prefer to have my children in the exact same schools with no changes and have the town of Wellesley pay for the sports adequately. It is an atrocity to think that we would spend money on building a new shiny building yet children cannot go and watch their friends play sports and cheer them on without paying. When I was in Wellesley as a child all the sports were paid for and now we are paying to play sports why don't we take this money and make it so our students do not have to pay to participate in sports. We have so much money in this town why are we always charging for everything! Start using our money wisely for the education and stop bringing on unnecessary expenses like building fancy looking buildings!	10/21/2016 3:49 PM
302	While I know this has been a long and difficult process, there has not been sufficient information on the process. We see lots of negativity in the Townsman and via email; it is very difficult to know whether or not these comments and statements are valid. The enrollment trends seem to be a major factor, but from the outside, one can not tell whether the studies used by the HHUMPC are valid and have they been diligent enough to get as much information on this topic as possible. As a TMM I am quite confused from the input from the Save the Neighborhood School vs. the School Committee and HHUMPC. I hope we do not go into ATM with the current lack of factual information. Thank you for your the significant effort this Committee and others given us on this important project; this is a major tax burden on all residents of Wellesley and needs to be properly positioned for all residents.[NAME REDACTED], Precinct G	10/21/2016 3:19 PM
303	Thank you for taking the time to slow down the process and go back thru all the details that concern people and all the options potentially available to our town. This is a much better process than the first effort.	10/21/2016 2:51 PM
304	Sorry - I need to be better informed. Thank you for spending time and energy to address the problems facing the town.	10/21/2016 2:24 PM
305	I am very concerned with additional traffic on Weston Road. It is becoming a real problem. The entrance to the North 40 would have to be off of Rt. 135	10/21/2016 1:37 PM
306	This survey is the most important part of the HHU MPC's work. You need to ensure that a maximal number of citizens have participated. The community will not support an over-ride for this project unless sufficient support has been mustered. I have not seen sufficient work to date on gathering community input. I particularly find it concerning that a deadline of Nov 1 has been applied to this survey; I am a citizen who is following this issue closely, and completing this survey was "tight" for my timeline. It will be even more so for other people. I also found question #13 to be phrased in an odd fashion - difficult to follow, and perhaps somewhat misleading in its phrasing.	10/21/2016 1:14 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

307	I believe the first choice should be to keep all three schools open and make some capital improvements gradually over time. Only if the potential capital costs are too high should we consider closing one of the schools (I readily acknowledge that "too high" is in the eye of the beholder and is completely subjective). I've got four kids in Wellesley Public Schools, and none at any of HHU. I'd like to think I'm somewhat unbiased on this subject. To me, what makes for a good educational experience is far more about the people (students, teachers, parents) and way less about the facilities. I don't think that most people wish for their child to go to a bigger school, or to one that's farther away from home. I think the current elementary school setup in Wellesley isn't perfect, but it's served the community pretty well over the years and I believe that with some common sense and creativity, there's probably a reasonable way to continue with this current format.	10/21/2016 11:56 AM
308	We hope that this master plan will bring many benefits in the future to the children in Wellesley. It is our belief, however, that the teachers and administrators 'make' the school.... not what it is physically made of.	10/21/2016 11:51 AM
309	I understand that one of the possibilities is closing one of our elementary schools. My children currently attend Upham. And yes we walk to school. My concern relates to the possibility of closing Upham. Where would our children go to school? We only have Bates on this side of Rt. 9 and the viability of having children all shuttled to Hardy or the North 40 area would be a traffic disaster. Weston Rd. is already too congested. Trying to make u-turns on Rt. 9 from our side is also a complete traffic nightmare for those of us who need to get to the other side of Rt. 9 on a daily basis. We need to maintain another school here. The great thing about Upham is that it is a neighborhood school. Some of our other schools draw students from many locations but Upham is truly for this neighborhood which was attractive to us when purchasing our home. If there is a way to renovate these schools in an efficient manner rather than a full rebuild, I would support that too. I don't believe closing any of the schools is the answer.	10/21/2016 11:27 AM
310	More transparency is needed!	10/21/2016 11:00 AM
311	WOULD LIKE CLARIFICATION OF STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS.	10/21/2016 10:24 AM
312	Each of Wellesley's neighborhood schools has developed unique qualities over time. Cherished and nurtured by their communities, these communities should be valued and encouraged. Pride in one's neighborhood, pride in one's school and pride in one's town are invaluable in the development of strong and productive young lives. Schools with unique "cultures" should be valued and preserved. There is already too much pressure for everyone to be the same.	10/21/2016 10:07 AM
313	Please do not build on the North 40. It is a wonderful resource for our town and somewhere where my family and I spend a considerable amount of time. I think the committee would be remiss to consider this an option.	10/21/2016 9:31 AM
314	I feel like some of these questions were slanted with the belief that there will be a consolidation.	10/21/2016 8:52 AM
315	I'm really dismayed by the lack of coherent information available about the proposals. I have been approached by many parents from Hardy espousing all kinds of conspiracy theories, including that Dr. Lussier wants to demolish Hardy so that developers can build a shopping mall in that space. The conversation has gotten ridiculous, and I'm not hearing a lot of progress from the committee.	10/21/2016 8:51 AM
316	I think all schools should remain and do the necessary reconstruction or renovation of them but no closings.	10/21/2016 7:01 AM
317	As the parent of school-aged children, I think maintaining the character of neighborhood schools is paramount in this process. I don't have strong views on the "historic" nature of any of the school buildings (most of which seem to me more old than historic) nor do I think construction impact should be a major consideration (all construction has an impact). So I would prioritize school size and maintaining neighborhood school character and economic factors as the two primary goals of the HHU project. Thank you for your work and effort on this important project.	10/21/2016 6:26 AM
318	First and foremost - thank you very much to those who have worked on the project and dedicated their precious time to the work. I do not envy you to deal with all the opinions, feelings and emotion that is very real for all involved. Thanks again and I trust you will consider all facts to come to the best decision for all.	10/21/2016 12:03 AM
319	Elementary aged children should be in a manageable sized school, that they know their way around and can comfortably navigate. Too large a school would be intimidating, especially for younger children. Also, a large student body would be difficult to administer. Lunchtime at an overly large school would be difficult to manage and it might not be possible for grades to have their own recess time. Additional specialists, administrative staff, custodial staff would need to be hired. A large building would require more people and expense to keep it functioning efficiently at all levels. When we moved to Wellesley there were 10 elementary schools, which was an important selling point for us. Our sons had a wonderful education at Hardy. The principal knew all the kids by name, knew siblings and parents and was accessible to talk to. That excellence should continue at our neighborhood schools. All Wellesley kids deserve a school they are comfortable in and one they can walk to with their neighborhood friends. It is common in Wellesley for residents to give permission in perpetuity for kids to cut through their yards to minimize the walk to school and to keep kids off busier streets. A lovely tradition that should be continued.	10/20/2016 11:34 PM
320	The project should be done to keep costs down as much as possible. Real estate taxes have been increasing yearly and are becoming no longer affordable.	10/20/2016 11:18 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

321	The schools are what draw people to Wellesley, and in my opinion the elementary schools are not on par with the level of home value and property prices that Wellesley draws. I'm appalled by the condition and age of some of the elementary schools. The state of the schools should be prioritized over recreation centers, maintaining North 40, senior centers, etc. I do believe closing Hardy puts the housing market west of Weston Road at jeopardy and removes the neighborhood feel that drew people there in the first place. I also don't think that the Upham neighborhood would benefit from having a large school built there. Also, I am concerned with then the inequity in Schofield and Fiske, once Hardy, Hunnewell, and Upham are renovated.	10/20/2016 11:08 PM
322	Save our neighborhood school.	10/20/2016 11:07 PM
323	Inevitably this will be a highly emotional matter for families with children in these schools. What they need to reflect upon is their own resiliency and the greater resilience of the children. The key idea is that the construction leave a better Wellesley for our children's children.	10/20/2016 10:47 PM
324	We moved to Wellesley when our kids were 5, 9, and 12. Previously, my older two children attended an elementary school (in a different state) with 3 classes per grade. We much preferred that size school over Upham. We believe there is a negative impact on the educational experience if the school is too small--and we felt that only 2 classes per grade at Upham was too small. We support building schools with 3 or 4 classes per grade.	10/20/2016 10:44 PM
325	If the cost for three schools is moderately, but not excessively above the cost of two schools, I will strongly vote against a 2 school option and fervently encourage my friends, neighbors, and community to do the same. I believe the enrollment projection decline is flawed, and I am against larger schools.	10/20/2016 10:43 PM
326	I note from the last report I saw, that the cost(s), net, do not take into account the prospect of selling a property that might be closed. More specifically, if you elected to close Hunnewell, might that land be zoned more easily as commercial. I'm guessing that a closure of Hardy would end up with that land being defined as residential. What would the value of each be? Would the differential in value be significant? I think the failure to include the "benefit" of the monetization of either of those properties is a hole in the analysis. John Foley	10/20/2016 10:25 PM
327	With all of the pressures on the Town's budget, I think consolidating schools could be an important way to reduce the schools' operating budget.	10/20/2016 9:56 PM
328	There are many other factors in education besides the location and size of elementary schools. There are many qualities that make a town desirable besides the schools. You can't please everyone, so remember the children.	10/20/2016 9:48 PM
329	For Hardy, i think the site plan should consider removal/reduction of playing fields to allow for another access route to school than just Weston road.	10/20/2016 9:46 PM
330	Significant concerns about a possible North 40 location.	10/20/2016 9:41 PM
331	Whether we have 6 or 7 schools, if properly districted, they will still be "neighborhood" schools (although I am not sure an official standard definition for neighborhood schools exists).	10/20/2016 9:41 PM
332	I do believe that consolidation of Hardy and Upham would absolutely make sense. There is room to build a building the size of Bates on the property. It would also take the school off a main road, like Weston Road, where it would be safer for the kids not only on their way to school and from it, but during. Additionally, by closing Hardy and rebuilding Upham, that would keep 2 elementary schools on the north side of Route 9, where there are a great # of elementary aged children. Kids living north of Rt 9 can then go to either Upham or Bates and not have to cross Route 9 at all. Those families south of Route 9 can go to Sprague or a newly renovated Hunnewell. I have heard alot of noise around the traffic/walkability issue of closing a school. However, I would like to believe that as these plans are being considered, so is sustainability. Wellesley is a certified green town, but our parents have no problem driving their SUVs 1/2 mile (up to 2 miles) to school and back. Having sat in traffic on Weston Road caused by the Hardy pick-up line, thinking about all the emissions being put into the air, makes my skin crawl. Bring back busin!!!. If more people signed up for buses, or it was built into the budget, the cost per child would be brought down and be more economical. Change is never easy and it is inevitable. Current families may have a hard time adjusting, but I can honestly say that if I bought my house back in 2000 and was told my kids had to ride a bus to school, it would not have changed my mind about buying the house. I would simply have put them on the bus. Good Luck!	10/20/2016 9:38 PM
333	I had an interesting experience when I was canvassing for signatures on this issue in front of Roche Bros. this year: a significant number of people said they weren't going to bother to stop and sign the petition because it was obvious that they would eventually get the opportunity to vote against closing one of the elementary schools, and that was what they thought would eventually stop the closing. Of course, that seemed a bit cynical to me at the time, but it was clear that they certainly agreed that we should not close any of the elementary schools. They are just not going to do anything about it until you ask for funding.	10/20/2016 9:38 PM
334	Thank you for asking resident's opinion!	10/20/2016 9:35 PM
335	My biggest concern is that the plan is short-sighted for fluctuations in population/school aged children 20-30 years from now. That said, build it new will cost less now than it will later.	10/20/2016 9:31 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

336	We previously lived in Needham. My son attended Newman elementary. With 800 students it was not the experience I wanted for my young child. He met a good friend in kindergarten and was never in his class again through the remaining 5 years. My daughter has attended Schofield since kindergarten..... worth the move to Wellesley. Outstanding school community that extends well beyond the school gates.	10/20/2016 9:30 PM
337	We are spending so much time on the elementary schools. Move on from this. We have no legitimate computer science program at the high school. We are one of the few affluent towns where that is the case. Shut the whiny elementary school parents up (BTW I have elementary school children) and focus on quality of education. All of this is nonsense. Six schools for our population is plenty. I can't believe how illogical this movement is. It's a few parents getting a broader group riled up with no view into what's happening at the middle and high school. This argument is tiring and overblown and lacks data. Make it stop.	10/20/2016 9:19 PM
338	Has anyone considered splitting up school based on grade levels? For instance, school options with the largest walking potential would yield more walkers for children in older grades (3-5) as those parents would probably be more comfortable having their children walk to and from school without a parent. I do. Younger children need to have a parent walk them to school (time consuming) and may be more amenable to bussing.	10/20/2016 9:12 PM
339	I think that town better improve it's due diligence and be forthcoming with all plans and information. These are HUGE decisions that impact lifestyle, neighborhoods, property values and finances. I have no problem with increased taxes if the town demonstrates proper management of project and funds.	10/20/2016 9:04 PM
340	Thank you to the many town employees and residents dedicating time to this project. Change is hard but I wish those residents who are anxious could be assured that feel the town and the volunteers involved will produce a good result and the new construction will be acceptable.	10/20/2016 8:45 PM
341	Thank you to whomever is reading this - you are doing good and important work for the future of the town and its students. This is a very long end game. People are emotional because they have nostalgia for their local school and fear of change. (Don't take anything personally!) The Warren building was once a school and Sprague was once the Rec Center. It all works out in the end (kind of like the gorgeous new high school..... )	10/20/2016 8:44 PM
342	Most important is to update existing school gradually over the next years, but building two big brand new schools would be in my opinion a waste of our tax money and would jeopardize the elementary school concept that we all love in Wellesley with small neighborhood schools. Thanks for you efforts to consult Wellesley.	10/20/2016 8:31 PM
343	I think having only one elementary school on the north side of route 9 and west of Glen Road would be ludicrous. I don't know what the percentage of homes are that are located in this area of Wellesley but I have to believe it's close to 50%. And to have only one elementary school would create a tremendous amount of traffic. By having 2 larger (provided Upham gets rebuilt with three or four sections per grade) Elementary schools north of Route nine and west of Glen Road, this would allow families living east of Cliff Road to possibly be re-districted to a school on their sane side of route 9!	10/20/2016 8:31 PM
344	I have spent many years at Hunnewell and while I know parts of the school are very old, nothing screams "historical", just tired. The courtyard tree, on the other, is very much a part of the school and it's traditions.	10/20/2016 8:24 PM
345	Neighborhood schools are the reason people move to Wellesley and should not be consolitated into a SUPER school which is detrimental to elementary school learning and the close and supportive family environment.	10/20/2016 8:14 PM
346	I will not support an override to build monuments to the superintendent. His condescension towards the citizens of Wellesley is distressing to me. We're not here to help him make a name for himself even as he steamrolls over the children. Please show me some evidence of his contention that 500+ elementary schools are a good educational environment for children.	10/20/2016 8:03 PM
347	No.	10/20/2016 7:56 PM
348	It is imperative that our schools be of the highest educational and structural quality.	10/20/2016 7:49 PM
349	Making our town as one of the most desirable places for young families to send their children to school helps to maintain our property values.	10/20/2016 7:47 PM
350	Good luck! Wellesleyites are nothing if not opinionated! It will be hard to weigh all options equally. Whatever is decided, will work because it has to. Just openly communicate with townspeople so they won't be blindsided by the proposal.	10/20/2016 7:31 PM
351	The educational welfare of the children should be the number one factor in all decisions. Every other factor is secondary.	10/20/2016 7:24 PM
352	While I understand the rationale for asking for brand new schools, that is impractical from both a financial and disruption to neighborhood perspective, so the Committee should be reviewing practical and sensible renovations to each of the schools that are in need of upgrading and minor expansions to the footprint to accommodate project student growth in that district.	10/20/2016 6:32 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

353	I think new schools should be comparable to the exiting schools in amenities. I recall the opening of sprague and it felt like our teachers got torn away from Hunnewell and they had fields, gyms, lunchrooms, etc. I guess I think the implementation of new schools is just as important as the concept of the schools.	10/20/2016 6:29 PM
354	Save our neighborhood schools!!	10/20/2016 6:25 PM
355	I think the best might be to renovate during summer those schools little by little.	10/20/2016 6:20 PM
356	School consolidation contradicts a cycle that has repeated itself over the decades, where decisions were made to decommission school buildings only to find the District short on space for elementary aged children at a later date. Research has borne this out. Wellesley is tapped out on spending. The tax base has tripled over 15 years. Projects have been sanctioned time and again to serve special interest groups. As an example, the North Forty was bought with long term debt and there is no available cash to develop the property. Also, the Town has not looked at financial sustainability for some other projects and over spent on others due to poor planning and bad quality control. Increasing tax obligations, creating congestion in the single worst location in town for a new elementary school and spending money the Town does not have makes no sense. While Upham and Hardy and Hunnewell schools are old and a far cry from current standards, they are reliable structures with costs that fit into the current budget.	10/20/2016 6:14 PM
357	Renovate and expand current schools, put kids in Modulares temporarily but almost everything should be completed over the summer months.	10/20/2016 6:13 PM
358	Community feel is key to our neighborhood. Hardy is an unbelievable feeling when I drop my 1st grader. My pre-K is coming soon. Love the school, would not want it changed.	10/20/2016 6:10 PM
359	The traffic impact on weston road could be significantly helped if hardy were closed and upham expanded	10/20/2016 6:00 PM
360	My main concern about consolidating 3 schools into 2 is about the location of the schools relative to one another. If one possibility were to expand Bates to accommodate Upham, I think that makes a lot of sense. I also think it makes potential sense to close Hardy and move its students to a new school built on the North 40. But I would be very unhappy if my kids were asked to cross Route 9, or, to a lesser extent, Washington/Central St. Several questions suggested that we should assume a safe route, but I just don't see it. Weston Rd is a really dangerous road for pedestrians and bikers, especially but not only around the intersection with Route 9, and crossing Washington/Central is also treacherous. A route to school that requires long stretches near roads that are heavily trafficked by commuters is not my idea of walking to a neighborhood school.	10/20/2016 5:43 PM
361	Shared them earlier. I grew up in another part of the country and attended a neighborhood elementary school. I am still friends with some of these kids, can't imagine what it would be like to go to a school where neighborhood kids don't attend.	10/20/2016 5:36 PM
362	I think the town will not support a large override or debt exclusion if a more modest one is possible. An effort to save all 3 schools, if it is significantly more expensive may not pass and then we are right back where we are now!	10/20/2016 5:30 PM
363	See above.	10/20/2016 4:39 PM
364	The implications of this project extend well beyond the bricks and mortar to which it will lead. It will define who we are as a Town.	10/20/2016 4:39 PM
365	If the schools were simply running way below capacity I guess it would make sense to consolidate one of them but I would find this surprising given the many young families in my Woodlands neighborhood.	10/20/2016 4:38 PM
366	There needs to be two schools north of route 9 in order to preserve the walkability factor in the neighborhoods.	10/20/2016 4:36 PM
367	Yes, it has appeared to be pre-baked from the start towards consolidation. Ellen Gibbs own statement that they meaning the BoS will do what's right for the town. It is not up to the BoS, it is up to the citizens and I want a much more balanced approach rather than an HHU team staffed with consolidation supports...it is really obvious what is going on...again, not cool!	10/20/2016 4:36 PM
368	The tax impact for my house and virtually every house in the Upham neighborhood will be double what you're projecting, as all the houses around here are valued at close to \$2 million. I will vote NO on ANY project that raises my bill by \$1,400/year, which is what's currently projected. Better start taxing business properties, the Wellesley Country Club, and the colleges at a more appropriate level, or this will never work!	10/20/2016 4:32 PM
369	I lived through the last redistricting when my oldest son was in kindergarten. It's very challenging when you're in the middle of it but the anger and frustration settles down fairly quickly after the initial disappointments. I realize this is more complicated due to protracted dislocations, but these 3 schools are long overdue for renovation or rebuilds. My kids started at Hunnewell 17 years ago and the facility was in very bad shape then. I can only imagine how badly this is needed now. I encourage you to have the courage to move ahead.	10/20/2016 4:11 PM
370	Don't make decisions without the inclusion of the community. Listen to the concerns, be open to the suggestions. If the schools will become unacceptable, the people will move out of the town, the town will become less attractive to new families. It's in the interest of the town to invest in the schools, because that investment returns back.	10/20/2016 3:45 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

371	I support renovating or rebuilding all three schools in order to keep the small school model. I would build one new school behind Upum and use that site as the swing school while the renovations or new structures are completed at Hardy and Hunnywell.	10/20/2016 3:39 PM
372	I think a "decision tree" (or set of "trees") would be helpful here in coming to some conclusions. I also think it's important to not only look at the "which schools can be built where" question but also the "which schools can NOT be eliminated, and why" question(s). It seems this has already been made to some extent w/ Hunnewell b/c of its proximity (and that seems fairly logical). Is there a similar argument for Upham given the geography of it? Maybe, maybe not. Point is, if a "decision tree" approach were to be used and it says u get to a 2 school system and not 3, the question then becomes which one do u let close, which then impacts the question of which school do u build first (or maybe Upham will be built bigger anyway bc of flux on special needs, I really have no idea; or maybe Hardy is first bc can build and not cause relocation of students, etc). So I would work on branches of the tree that involve the possible options of letting Hardy or Upham close.	10/20/2016 3:12 PM
373	There are multicultural benefits to being a Hardy student. The early exposure to a diverse student population helped my children in many ways. While the same students would be mixed into other schools it wouldn't be the same.	10/20/2016 3:09 PM
374	How about this: redistrict so everyone north Rt. 9 goes to Bates. Expand Upham to take some of the existing Bates population. Close Hunnewell and renovate Hardy. Or Close Hardy and renovate Hunnewell. I think the Hardy site is better suited to expansion. sell off the Hunnewell site to offset construction costs.	10/20/2016 3:09 PM
375	Please make sure you are being objective and have not set on a path of closing one of the schools. I believe that the plans and considerations still weigh heavily on closing a school, despite the community feedback and objections being received. I also, cannot understand, how a town as affluent as Wellesley, has allowed three of its schools to be in such poor states that the options are to rebuild them all. The towns taxes school reflect the need to adequately maintain school properties for the future. Please do not allow this fear and heartache over closing a school happen again. Plan and budget properly.	10/20/2016 2:20 PM
376	I would like to share a general concern... It is somewhat disconcerting that we are having a discussion around three elementary schools that are beyond disrepair in a town with a strong tax base. Not having reviewed the town budget, I would assume that there is a line item for maintaining these properties. Whatever decision is made, we should ensure moving forward that the structures are properly maintained.	10/20/2016 2:08 PM
377	I do not feel that closing Hardy should be considered an appropriate option at all as it would have a negative impact on the vibrant and involved Hardy community. I am very concerned that consolidating into larger elementary schools would significantly alter the culture and experience for families in our town. I am also very concerned about the impact on my particular property value.	10/20/2016 2:07 PM
378	I only support keeping all 3 schools open. I personally think there are a lot of options that would allow us to keep 3 schools open, but its pretty obvious someone who's driving the 2 school solution has an agenda and wants the Hardy site for some other purpose. The rumor I've heard is they want it for school administration. Better offices are great, and probably needed, but it's not a reason to close a school.	10/20/2016 1:48 PM
379	The issues with traffic so clearly directly correlate to parents driving their kids to school - something I have never seen in any other community, city or state. Buses should and must be utilized far more in Wellesley. Ironically, I've spoken to countless parents who don't want their older elementary school children or even middle school kids to ride their bikes or walk because the traffic is so bad and they feel it isn't safe for their kids to navigate... If we could stop the insane culture of driving kids to school it would make a tremendous difference on so many levels. Not to mention the burden that the parents picking up and dropping in their cars are to the surrounding community - I'd never buy a home next to a Wellesley elementary school or the WMS because of the parent car traffic. And what message are we sending to our kids environmentally, socio-economically?	10/20/2016 1:42 PM
380	We need to determine what will be best for the community and not what will be best for any one set of families at one of the impacted schools. We cannot let a group with special interests (those at one of the schools that would be impacted) to dictate what is the best decision for the community.	10/20/2016 1:37 PM
381	We need to make a descision as a community so that we can shift focus from "how many schools" to educating our children and improving curriculum.	10/20/2016 1:32 PM
382	I think it is important to maintain all the schools, we have seen traditionally that closing schools leads to problems in the future. One of the best things of Wellesley is its schools, and I wouldn't support closing one of them.	10/20/2016 1:30 PM
383	Our town tax rate is already one of the highest in the state, if not in the entire U.S., and there should be no impact on our current tax for any town projects that involve select population of town residents.	10/20/2016 1:15 PM
384	The plan is severely flawed on many levels.	10/20/2016 1:14 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

385	I am concerned too much weight is being put on emotions and not enough on practicality. I thought the first plan (to close Hardy and build new Upham and renovate Hunnewell) had a lot of clear logic behind it (geographic distribution of students, traffic congestion, etc.) which I understood. The ideas that have come up about closing Upham and consolidating more south of Rt. 9 don't make any sense to me. Overall, I'd love to see all the schools preserved. When I moved to town, paying for maintaining more elementary schools than typical was something I signed up for by buying my house in the town.	10/20/2016 1:05 PM
386	Building a large Upham one street over from Bates makes very little sense to me. The traffic impact on people that live on Westgate, Suffolk and Dukes Roads would be intolerable and unsafe for those children who might be walking. The streets in the area are already insane with Bates traffic alone at pick up time!! I also strongly disagree with closing Hardy. The number of families that daily walk to and from school in that school district is enormous. Maintaining the feeling of small neighborhood elementary schools is of prime importance to me. When kids are young, knowing their friends and the families of their friends is a wonderful advantage.	10/20/2016 1:04 PM
387	Impossible job. Glad I'm not in charge.	10/20/2016 12:59 PM
388	I am hoping that this survey reaches what I believe is the majority of the town residents that support closing one of our schools. My guess is that you are hearing from a very vocal, but minority population that supports keeping Hardy open. I would rather see the WPS focus on education curriculum, outstanding teachers and administrators and keeping our class sizes small. Facilities are indeed important, but when costs outweigh benefits I think most reasonable people would choose to take the most cost effective route to solve this issue. I have attended several concerts at Upham over the past few years as my Bates kids have participated in band. The population of that school seems to be dwindling and to have educators supporting such a small group when their talents can be shared with a larger audience seems like a waste. Reallocating our outstanding staff across more equitable groups of kids is more important than walking to school.	10/20/2016 12:59 PM
389	Hire a good architect who can undertake all of this, do it tastefully, with sensitivity to the environment & it's surroundings & on budget. We do not need any custom windows & a Newton North High School scenario. Wellesley High School came out terrific! Thanks for asking us all & doing this survey, appreciate it :)	10/20/2016 12:49 PM
390	My understanding is that research shows the population of the town will decrease over time and that is a factor in determining the final plan. If that assumption is part of the decision making process, and the research proves incorrect for Wellesley, how will that impact the effectiveness of the HHU project long term?	10/20/2016 12:46 PM
391	I just don't understand how it makes sense to expand Upham, when Upham seems to have the smallest enrollment out of all of the elementary schools. Please keep our neighborhood schools. They mean so much to the community!	10/20/2016 12:42 PM
392	Please analyze the 2 vs 3 school scenario and locations based on which ever makes the least environmental impact. thanks	10/20/2016 12:41 PM
393	I have three big concerns: 1) We chose to live in the Hunnewell neighborhood because we thought the school had a great location near us and near the town so we'd like to see that preserved for our children (ages 9, 7 and 5) 2) Managing and minimizing disruption - Assuming Hunnewell is renovated, where will the kids go during the renovation process and how disruptive is that to their educational and social experience? Being bussed to the current Upham does not sound good - is there a way to renovate in the summer months that will make the needed improvements incrementally and not utterly disrupt the kids? What will the renovations be that make the school an ideal learning environment? 3) Fairness and transparency- what's the mechanism for ensuring a fair and data driven decision-making process for the options we are considering and communicating the relative tradeoffs and impacts of the options to the community so we can make an informed decision together on the best course forward.	10/20/2016 12:41 PM
394	I against the closing of one school, but not strongly. I do love the neighborhood feel of each of the schools. I also know how sad I would be if my kids' school was under consideration for closing. However, I also recognize that this may be one of the only options. I don't want to keep all three open - just because that is how it has always been done. Ultimately, if this is best for the town and then kids - then I support it.	10/20/2016 12:34 PM
395	Current district lines have Sprague being a melting pot of students that don't belong to a distinct neighborhood (coming from as far as the far side of Cliff Rd). I fully support a plan that gets children to attend the school that's actually the closest one to them. For instance, homes near Whole Foods should attend Hunnewell (rather than Sprague) and homes on White Oak or Ledgeways should go to Upham, not Sprague. That, and other district line modifications, should allow many children currently attending Hardy to move to Sprague. Even though it may not be as close as Hardy was, it's in that neighborhood. Like it or not, Rt 9 is a dividing line so district lines (and thus building capacity) should reflect that. Times have changed, having a school at the intersection at Rt 9 and Weston Road no longer makes sense.	10/20/2016 12:31 PM
396	Many of us moved to Wellesley for the school system. We accepted the fact that we overpaid for our homes to have the best schools. We don't need to have our schools run like a business. Yeah, its probably more cost effective to consolidate. But we overpaid to live here for a reason, and don't want to see any aspect of the school experience and quality sacrificed. I think a lot of the families get this. I am not sure the decision makers in this process do.	10/20/2016 12:27 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

397	(1) Would various decisions (different types/locations of buildings) affect performance measures by the state or third parties? Would a given choice affect our external funding? Would a given choice affect our ranking in (for example) Boston Magazine? (2) I am under the impression that the original plan was to close Hardy and convert the building into a central administrative complex. I strongly oppose this, not because I care about Hardy, but because I want to keep the town payroll small. I would like to be assured that new offices will not eventually be filled by new employees (and their pension liabilities) in an ever increasing bureaucracy. (3) Thanks to the committee volunteers for doing this.	10/20/2016 12:24 PM
398	It's hard for most of us in town to respond to these questions without full knowledge of the various factors being considered. I trust the committees' collective opinions, as they have the broad and historic knowledge required to make the best decisions for our town. Whether or not one school must close is less important to me than preserving the character and benefits of Wellesley's neighborhood schools within a reasonable budget both now and into the future. Traffic in this town is a nightmare already, so that should be a major consideration too. Good luck!	10/20/2016 12:24 PM
399	My experience as a parent of multiple Hunnewell children redistricted to Sprague was that there were very intense emotions prior to school opening, but that nearly everyone settled in a few weeks after opening. It helped that Ellen was an excellent principal.	10/20/2016 12:20 PM
400	I think class size is really important. If you are considering combining schools, the teacher to student ratio should be highly considered. We move to suburbs like Wellesley specifically for good public education, and so that our children can have an optimum learning experience. This, along with ease of commute for families, financial impact, and environmental factors should be heavily considered.	10/20/2016 12:18 PM
401	Change is always difficult but inevitable if WPS wants to remain one of the top school districts in the state and if Wellesley residents wish to continue to enjoy their high property values	10/20/2016 12:08 PM
402	What is important is that kids have nice schools in which to get a good education with other kids in the same community. It isn't important that their classmates live within a certain block radius. Expanding the number of students/grade is both a social and an academic advantage. The fact is, we don't have sidewalks, and kids are too young to be walking to school without adult supervision nowadays. The schools don't want the responsibility of watching them before school either. The neighborhood school idea is an old idea that doesn't make sense today. Parents need efficient arrival and departure procedures that benefit teachers as well.	10/20/2016 12:08 PM
403	Kids adjust within a month to a new school unless parents make it difficult. Hardy is in a terrible location for town traffic	10/20/2016 12:07 PM
404	Just wishing you well with this process and thanking you for taking on this difficult assignment!	10/20/2016 12:02 PM
405	No	10/20/2016 11:57 AM
406	It is worth investing in what is "right" about this town -- the small neighborhood schools and close-knit neighborhoods. Changing this would be a great disappointment. It is worth investing in preserving the best part of our town.	10/20/2016 11:56 AM
407	Renovate the existing buildings and keep the neighborhood elementary schools in place.	10/20/2016 11:54 AM
408	What the original school sites will be turned into if new schools are to be built at new locations? How the traffic of Weston road will look like if a new and bigger elementary school is built on North 40 site? I am not clear on the difference of costs between building two new schools vs. renovating the three schools. Please provide us the numbers.	10/20/2016 11:48 AM
409	Don't do the work all at one time.	10/20/2016 11:45 AM
410	I don't have direct experience with Hardy (other than enjoying the school playground and grounds) but feel that the plan to close it is probably the best of all under discussion. I also strongly feel that the elementary school districts could be redrawn to make more sense and increase walkability/neighborhood feel - for instance by not splitting the neighborhoods north of Route 9 and west of Weston Road, by consolidating the homes in College Heights/Sprague area, etc. I know many people want to maintain the status quo and love Hardy, but I think the kids at Hunnewell (and from what I hear Upham and Hardy) could be so much better served with improved facilities (ASAP!), and that it would not be a detriment to the town if some redistricting occurred.	10/20/2016 11:42 AM
411	I am new to town. Had a bit of sticker shock just then, hearing of the 93-95m estimates for the first time.	10/20/2016 11:40 AM
412	see above.	10/20/2016 11:37 AM
413	We should focus on how many schools we need and where they should be situated, not on where our existing schools are.	10/20/2016 11:35 AM
414	I think it's important to note that while the committee has not seen a lot of Upham faces at their meetings, it doesn't mean we are any less invested in this conversation. It seems that those with the loudest bark are getting the most attention and I'd rather see an honest assessment made by the committee without them needing to constantly hear the negative reactions from townspeople. We need to do what's fiscally and educationally responsible for our town and kids. And if that means closing a school, than I will support that endeavor. However, I'm hoping we can find a way to keep all the schools open and allow families to continue to enjoy the small neighborhood school experience.	10/20/2016 11:34 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

415	Good luck!	10/20/2016 11:32 AM
416	no schools should be eliminated and/or combined. We value our educational system in a small neighborhood setting.	10/20/2016 11:28 AM
417	All decisions should put the children and their education first (even if this means short-term real-estate value changes). All decisions should be justified based on this guiding principle.	10/20/2016 11:28 AM
418	The claim that enrollment is or will be decreasing is not credible and any arguments to eliminate schools based on that false proposition lack credibility and show that an agenda is being pushed without regard to facts.	10/20/2016 11:26 AM
419	The town should do the most cost effective and most efficient plan.	10/20/2016 11:24 AM
420	I like this survey. The feeling that the process was open and inclusive is critical to receiving long term community support.	10/20/2016 11:23 AM
421	Must maintain a school at Hunnewell site.	10/20/2016 11:20 AM
422	A big part of what makes Wellesley a great town are the schools. People flock here because of them, and jamming kids into larger schools is not the solution to aging buildings. A lot of us came here because of the neighborhood schools and because privates are not necessarily a solution for us. Consider that carefully before you jam tons of kids into these bigger, but not better, options. Thanks.	10/20/2016 11:20 AM
423	Strongly opposed to any plan that would force students from an existing school to cross route 9 in order to go to another school while renovation or new building construction occurs on their current school site.	10/20/2016 11:18 AM
424	Neighborhood schools are the cornerstone of community involvement and pride.	10/20/2016 11:18 AM
425	if cons and pros can be fully listed and reasonably explained and supported, it will be easier to give a better opinion. Thanks.	10/20/2016 11:17 AM
426	Such a tricky issue for everyone. A key aspect of the "neighborhood" school model is the social & community support & connection that comes with it, for both Parents and Kids. There is such a drop-off in this connection when going from Elementary school to the larger WMS and WHS, and I think simple geography & school size is a partial cause. The lack of parental support at the larger schools, while perhaps "desirable" in some ways as it allows the professional staff to have "more control", also affects everyone involved in other ways that can be less positive, especially when kids start to feel "lost" in the bigger systems that get less direct parental funding and support. The negative impacts then compound when the core teacher base feels stressed / over-worked / burnt out due to continued budget cuts, and so they cannot fill in the gaps that are created when parents / community / extracurriculars are no longer a part of the equation	10/20/2016 11:13 AM
427	It is virtually impossible for my kids to walk to their school. That has in no way impacted their school experience, which has been very positive.	10/20/2016 11:11 AM
428	It is important and critical to maintain our current school districts because it has been working so well for the communities. Yes, it is true that some of our schools are aged and out of date and needs some renovations, but the scale is not necessarily to be as big as a tear down and rebuild. As long as we don't need to tear down and rebuild, there is no need to consolidate the three schools into two, which could create more problems down the road than solve the problem of renovation and cost. So my opinion is to scale down the renovation plan and stay with the current districts. It's going to be in the best interest of our community.	10/20/2016 11:11 AM
429	We need to focus on the kids and their education. I don't mean to sound like a broken record, but people are so focused on state of the art. I understand that for the high school where science labs and athletic facilities matter, but this is elementary school. We need to have great technology in these schools, but other than that, the bells and whistles don't matter. Let's keep the classrooms' small and keep our outstanding faculty. Those are the things that will make a difference. I love walking my kids to school, but if the best situation requires us to drive them, then so be it. People need to take a step back and re-evaluate why they believe what they believe.	10/20/2016 11:10 AM
430	The costs associated with any option to replace and/or renovate three elementary schools in Wellesley are significant and the final decision should be based upon providing the best education possible while not increasing our taxes to a level that would be hard to get passed by the broad Wellesley community. In the end, 2/3rds of the Wellesley community don't utilize the elementary school system and would be challenged to agree to raise taxes beyond what's reasonably needed. Thus, for the benefit of all Wellesley residents to insure property values remain solid and we offer the best education we should look to settle on a recommendation that is the best compromise to all challenges rather than just approve replacing three schools completely and not being passed by the overall community. This would result in another delay to doing what's needed for the betterment of our children which has already occurred with the constant bickering among active residents.	10/20/2016 11:09 AM
431	I'm concerned that enrollment numbers will not drop as expected and we need to make sure we do not cut ourselves short. There is no reason why you can not build three new or mostly new schools at 18 sections. It would be great if the committee was spending time on figuring out how to make a 3 school solution work for less than 100M.	10/20/2016 11:09 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

432	By consolidating schools, I believe we are destroying value for homeowners who had the luxury of the option to have their kids walk to school. Small, walkable schools is a key care about for our family.	10/20/2016 11:07 AM
433	Rather than increase taxes to pay for 100% of the costs to build/renovate, the Wellesley town budget should be carefully reviewed for cost-saving actions that could partially offset these costs.	10/20/2016 11:06 AM
434	None of these questions address what it means to be part of a community. I am thankful for my kids attending Hardy because the size of the grades is manageable and permits the families to get to know each other. This is just one aspect of many positives that community schools provide that you cannot encompass in a survey. I think this process has been handled extremely poorly, with the superintendent coming in with an agenda to consolidate the schools and attempting to use the HHU committee as a means to force this plan through. Arbitrary rules such as not permitting people who have a differing point of view to present using powerpoint (extremely silly), trying to prevent alternative information regarding population growth from being discussed and needing to be badgered to prepare a real plan for renovation of Hardy lead me to conclude that the end goal is to confirm the superintendent's plan rather than settle on the correct thing to do. We do not want to be in a situation where we go through these renovations and then after a few years need to add modulars to address a growing student population.	10/20/2016 11:04 AM
435	We strongly believe in keeping all the schools open and not making Upham a super school.	10/20/2016 11:01 AM
436	I have been a Wellesley resident for nearly 18 years, with children now at WMS and WHS. While I appreciated having a neighborhood school, I do not think that it was a leading factor in the quality of education that they received. It's a nice-to-have, not a need-to-have. The Town has long demonstrated an inability to maintain the significant number of buildings that comprise WPS (there are too many). There is annual debate on how best to manage fluctuating census between districts (consolidate/eliminate). The strength of faculty between and among grades varies greatly (Grade 3 in one school is far below expectation than in others). A lack of economies of scale threaten program changes (maintain 7 art rooms rather than a few large ones). I have yet to hear an argument as to how neighborhood schools provide a better education.	10/20/2016 10:59 AM
437	I would like to see the 3 elementary schools consolidated into 2 and the 3rd be turned into PAWS. The community has outgrown the current PAWS location. It would be great if all PAWS students could be at one location vs the 2 satellite locations. Also, any one of the 3 elementary schools would be a more central location in Wellesley.	10/20/2016 10:54 AM
438	I think the school committee needs to look at a much bigger and bolder solution. I think the master plan committee has failed to produce a good plan and needs to go back to the drawing board and start over as none of the proposed options are a good idea for the town. They seem to only serve the architects, engineer, builders and committee's agenda. I think the town should look at a bigger and bolder solution such as building a large centrally located campus that houses all facilities for all students of all grades in a single centrally located location such as centennial park or the Wellesley Country Club and turn all the current school areas into public trails and parks. The current model of so many schools makes it very difficult for the Town of Wellesley to maintain a top performing school system for the future.	10/20/2016 10:52 AM
439	Given the existing congestion in the hardy area (rte 9/Weston Rd), this should be the first school to be considered for elimination and last to be considered for expansion.	10/20/2016 10:52 AM
440	Larger, more beautiful buildings do not necessarily equate to better schools. Sprague did not do so well in MCAS scores this year, even though it is the newest elementary school. While schools need to be to code, secure and safe, and up to date with technological advancements, a NEW building is not necessarily the answer.	10/20/2016 10:50 AM
441	There was a question raised here about use of the North 40 land. This is a wonderful space that even if 10 acres (25%) were used for a school, 30 acres would remain. The presence of the school and kids would likely increase the utilization of the trails and amazing space that I absolutely love today, but are under used. That being said, any use of the North 40 would have to come with VERY careful consideration of traffic and traffic flows. Weston Road between 7:30-9AM and again from about 4-6PM is almost impassable between Rt 9 and Rt 135. Any significant increase in traffic for use of the school or associated playing fields would only compound a bad situation.	10/20/2016 10:50 AM
442	Figure out the numbers and simply give the town two options to vote on... A. Fix all 3, cost \$180 million your tax bill goes up \$900 B. Fix up 2 and consolidate, cost \$140 million your tax bill goes up \$700	10/20/2016 10:49 AM
443	One big concern that many of the residents in these affected districts share is that our house property values will go down if the neighborhood school is closed or moved. Walkability to school is a big factor in the real estate in my neighborhood in particular. In that way, the changes would hit us twice -- once to pay for construction and then again when our property loses value.	10/20/2016 10:48 AM
444	The town should view these projects in the context that they will serve our children for the next 50-75 years. As such we should not short change ourselves by focusing too much on costs and short term challenges. We should optimize the design for our children and the next 3 or 4 generations. I believe strongly in these neighborhood schools. Many people have moved to the town just for this reason. As we strengthen our elementary schools, perhaps fewer children will choose private schools. The more kids we can keep in our public schools, the stronger our neighborhood communities will be.	10/20/2016 10:48 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

445	The most important thing is that a child go to school with their neighbors, regardless of how far they have to travel to school. Currently children living on Parker rd go to Hardy or Bates and don't know one another well. I favor larger schools that allow children from the same neighborhood to stay together for their entire elementary career. Wellesley families do not walk their children to school now and I don't believe the trend will improve. Get the project done so children have modern space !!!	10/20/2016 10:45 AM
446	Hunnewell is a critically important cornerstone institution for Wellesley town center, and for homeowners like us who purchased our homes for the long-term expressly to attend and walk to this neighborhood school. Closing Hunnewell would be devastating for our children and our community. Expanding it would be welcome, given the small grade sizes has tended to result in significant gender imbalances within certain grades (many more girls than boys, or vice versa) that could be alleviated by adding one more class per grade. Our children are able by 4th grade to walk to the library, home or the town which is so important for their independence. I fear the terrible congestion that an expansion of Hardy would bring up Weston Road, which is a critical connection for everyone in the center of town to Route 9 and other parts of town.	10/20/2016 10:42 AM
447	There is a hierarchy of need on this topic and we are over complicating the issue. People move here for the school system and to with the taxes paid to live here, a recommendation to close a school which will increase the size of the other schools runs in contradiction to why people moved here in the first place. Perhaps before we pay for fields at the high school or the high school itself we should have taken care of this need first. To threaten higher costs without offsetting other budget items is also silly. I hope we have business people on this committee to figure this out.	10/20/2016 10:40 AM
448	The principles guiding it should apply to all Wellesley elementary schools.	10/20/2016 10:39 AM
449	Neighborhood elementary schools are a significant part of Wellesley's history and experience. It is something that many of us treasure. Recent significant investments in school infrastructure has me very wary of additional investments. I think it is important to minimize ANY POSSIBLE costs, particularly ongoing costs as they will impact everyone in the community for years to come. That will put financial pressures on the system and will require sacrifices in other areas, including other areas of the school budget (student/teacher ratios, teacher compensation, ...).	10/20/2016 10:36 AM
450	In my opinion, I think preserving the existing schools in the most cost-effective way possible should be the primary goal of the master plan.	10/20/2016 10:34 AM
451	Let's rally the leadership and courage in Wellesley to do what's best for our educational system in the long run and not be held hostage by a small but vocal minority who are focused on their specific personal agendas. Also Wellesley cannot continue to raise taxes at the same rate as the past 10 years or we will become an even less affordable and diverse community.	10/20/2016 10:34 AM
452	There is always pain involved in building/renovating a new school particularly for those attending the school during the construction. Kids that went through the Bates, WMS and WHS projects were very unlucky but it's necessary and I don't believe it has impacted the education of these students overall.	10/20/2016 10:34 AM
453	I am strongly opposed to giant schools with multiple sections at each grade level. It destroys the class spirit and camaraderie that these kids develop with their elementary school mates that carries on the middle school and beyond. I also oppose any plan that increases traffic congestion in this town - we are already at a breaking point and quality of life is effected.	10/20/2016 10:32 AM
454	A significant factor in the property values of the town are the quality of, and the level of investments that we as a community make in our schools and our education system. I would look to preserve that, while learning from the mistakes in other communities, such as Newton.	10/20/2016 10:31 AM
455	I do not agree with the concept of consolidation. These children are going to school for the first time and smaller schools are more welcoming and comfortable. If there is a plan to consolidate, it makes NO sense to build at the Upham site. The traffic would be too difficult, there is no room there and the neighborhood would be ruined. The Hardy site is ideal as it has a lot of land and fields and is well suited to handle a larger facility. Please do not use the Upham site as an option for consolidation. It will ruin the schools and our town.	10/20/2016 10:31 AM
456	Wellesley's ongoing desirability is driven in large part by its school districts. I look at the facilities that Newton is building with envy, and I think that we should have great facilities. I grew up in a town where riding the bus was a rite of passage. In our school district, it seems like most kids are driven to school by their parents. Busing and traffic go hand in hand, and I don't think that school buses should have the "stigma" they have now.	10/20/2016 10:30 AM
457	I'm concerned that many people involved in the process (including most of those trying to "inform" us about it) have already formed opinions about the "right" thing to do, and have lost sight of the goals of the process. I don't have any opinions about it, and I could support a plan which can explain the goals of the process, why that plan meets those goals, and why other plans don't meet them as fully.	10/20/2016 9:38 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

458	Having lived in the Upham district and then moved to the Hardy district, there is no question that there are different vibes between the 2. The Upham district was definitely stuffier, less inclusive, the children were brattier. Hardy has been just the opposite. There are unique cultures and simply cramming them together and assuming everything would be the same is a significant risk. In addition, I think it is really hard to predict the future. But it does seem more families with young children are moving into town. It would not be surprising if in 10-20 years, if we had gone down to 6 schools, the town finds itself in need of additional space. It's always a tough pill to swallow, but better now than later. It is like buying your first house. It is always a tough decision to make, but very few who make the decision regret it later down the road, whereas you often hear people say, "I wish I had bought a house earlier in life."	10/20/2016 9:35 AM
459	We favor an option to relocate or rebuild Hardy school to the rear of the existing footprint on the property. A longer driveway and access road would ease traffic flow on Weston Road. An alternative entrance from the rear or side street could also help traffic flow and make coming and going to school even more walkable from along the Weston road side. Relocating Hardy School toward the rear of the property does not mean that a playground and Fields disappear they would just be repositioned.	10/20/2016 6:21 AM
460	Some of the original plans that were presented in the first go around seem to have been tossed from consideration entirely. I favor those options more than the new ones. Warren already serves the eastern part of Wellesley with recreation programs. Hardy is a similar size and fit and could become the same. To keep it a full time school requires a better flow of traffic there, having to pass that area daily is simply unbearable.	10/20/2016 12:57 AM
461	Town "leadership" has time and time again made shortsighted decisions that later need to be, expensively, addressed. Most realtors in town could easily state that the future enrollment numbers the board is using are too low. Regardless of the decision that is made in this matter, after nearly 20 years of making my home in Wellesley I'm fairly certain that "leadership" will find a way to spend too much for a poor solution.	10/20/2016 12:42 AM
462	Appreciate hearing both sides of each concern	10/20/2016 12:17 AM
463	I am disappointed that more was not done to build consensus around this project early on. There appears to be such a level of mistrust on the part of the many residents now, that I wonder how consensus can be reached. Meanwhile, the issue of the educational value of school consolidation seems to come up again and again. I have not yet heard the argument for how consolidation improves educational opportunities. I wonder if having the superintendent function more as an advising expert to this committee rather than as a member of the committee would alleviate some of the mistrust that has arisen. Many people seem to feel that he has prejudged the project and is advocating consolidation, and that makes it seem like the result is preordained (whatever the reality may be). It would be a shame for another committee of dedicated volunteers to spend many months on a town project only to be defeated because of a public perception that the process was close-minded and the conclusions were preordained.	10/19/2016 11:40 PM
464	good luck with handling the dueling constituencies of each school	10/19/2016 11:30 PM
465	Keep hardy.	10/19/2016 11:27 PM
466	I think that it would be short sighted to close a school. I also think that building plans should include flex space and consideration of the preschool population. it would make sense to plan for a PAWS that is more centrally located to ease the transportation burden on families with more than one child and on staff.	10/19/2016 9:46 PM
467	I'm not informed enough at the moment. I don't think this will go through.	10/19/2016 8:56 PM
468	Small, neighborhood schools are highly beneficial for children and their families. It's part of what makes Wellesley a desirable town. Sidewalks definitely need to be improved. For my children to walk to Sprague, they need to cross Linden with no light, and then cross it again because of a lack of sidewalks. Many educational studies have shown the benefits of small schools (NOT just small classrooms) in making children feel more comfortable, known, and understood in their schools, and thus more ready to learn. Small schools encourage family involvement, which is similarly beneficial for student learning. Many families move to Wellesley for the small, neighborhood schools. And frankly, either a new school should be considered or these three schools should be built larger than necessary so we don't keep running into space issues. Redistricting may have its flaws, but it seems necessary to rebalance the populations at schools. KEEP THE THREE SCHOOLS!	10/19/2016 8:56 PM
469	I have been following this process fairly closely from the beginning, and all along have been very disappointed with the lack of openness. This survey is a welcome exception. One question that has been asked repeatedly, without a satisfactory answer as far as I know, is why can't we make use of the extensive space behind Hardy to build a new school while students stay in the existing school? Wouldn't this solve some of the swing space issues, and also some of the Weston rd traffic concerns, if we could have a school driveway/queueing area set back from Weston rd? Lastly, neighborhood schools are why we moved to Wellesley. Our older neighbors constantly praise our school and say it made their grown children who they are. The school that we walk to, alongside our neighbors, every day, has made us feel happier and more connected to our community than anything else ever could. To take this experience away from future children in our neighborhood would be to change the character of this town.	10/19/2016 8:46 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

470	It would have been appropriate to try and add a question that allowed a direct response to if the town voters support renovations/rebuild of all 3 schools or supporting the closing of 1 of the schools. It seems as if the survey could have been more inclusive of other options and feedback.	10/19/2016 8:42 PM
471	As an educator in the Wellesley Public Schools and a resident, I think it would be a real loss to our town to do away with one of the neighborhood schools. One of the reasons that people used to move to this town was for the schools that were close to their homes, had a strong sense of community and provided an excellent education. The positive atmosphere of the schools has changed over the past four years as classrooms have been closed and families are sent to other schools. While I understand that the 3 schools are in serious need of improvement, it would be a shame to hastily close one to build a large school. Large schools may be appealing since costs can be cut, but at what expense? I think the HHU committee needs to listen to the voices of the people in this town and find a solution that does not involve the loss of one school.	10/19/2016 8:19 PM
472	I hope decision-makers rely on prudence, objectivity and fairness.	10/19/2016 8:16 PM
473	Yes! I truly wish that people would start using common sense in this process and stop wasting everyone's time and money! \$20,000 to push your agenda on the Community through a consultant. Really! Why do people spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to send their kids to private school. Because they are small, and smaller schools are better for learning. I went to private school, my husband went to public school in a town very much like Wellesley, with a neighborhood school model. We chose to move here from the city, not go the private school route, and send our kids to Wellesley Public because of the SMALL neighborhood schools. Ask yourself, why did Sprague score significantly lower than Hardy on MCAS scores this past year.... and previous years. Could be easy to blame this on some students (I won't go into the diversity profiles of each school, but you should!), but could school size have something to do with this? Start thinking folks! Not sure what the agenda is here but there certainly is one, and it's not the in the interest of our young learners!!!	10/19/2016 7:39 PM
474	This process has not been open or honest and it needs to be. The superintendent works for us, we pay his salary, and he should do what the town wants, not what builds his resume.	10/19/2016 7:21 PM
475	See above	10/19/2016 7:14 PM
476	I think it's best to keep the three schools and make the needed additions etc. The emotional climate is important to the town and the good will.	10/19/2016 6:58 PM
477	I would like to know the life expectancy and operational costs of a ground-up restoration of two schools versus two newly built schools.	10/19/2016 5:00 PM
478	Many residents seem to have reacted to the "process"; I hope that the end result can be negotiated so that everyone has something to be pleased with. My observation is that Hardy is in a dreadful location along Weston Road where the traffic is bad most of the time and horrendous during drop-off and pick-up times. On the other hand, it seems a poor idea to take down trees at Upham to build a new facility there. This survey doesn't present any information about the school population -- increasing or decreasing of the next 50 years.	10/19/2016 4:40 PM
479	Impact on the already rapidly increasing tax burden is my number one concern. The opening and closing of various elementary schools over the past 40 years does not support a high level of confidence in this project, along with the muddling around with the Middle School in recent years which was a mess. The new high school, however, is an example of doing it right.	10/19/2016 4:38 PM
480	I think if you have to consolidate and get one big school with some smaller schools, putting it near Upham is NOT the correct location. Upham is already land locked and making it the biggest school would be a nightmare, in my opinion. If you have to create one big school, then put it in the North 40 where you can create a better flow and have space to keep traffic moving around it. Also, my kids always either walked or rode the bus. Making the bus cheaper/free (it is the highest of any towns around) and making the routes better - not the same route year after year - but run them backwards the next year so the same kids don't always have the longest journey. Also, allow any kid to ride any bus at any time. They were NEVER crowded so until capacity becomes an issue, there should be a LOT more flexibility to the buses. Also having a late bus for the high school really helps in getting people to use it since so many kids don't have to be there at 7:30am.	10/19/2016 4:24 PM
481	I don't want to pay more for decades, and inconvenience special teachers and parents of SPED kids so parents of current elementary school kids don't have to deal with change.	10/19/2016 4:17 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

482	<p>Why is the HHU planning committee not part of, or dependent on, the Town's Unified Planning effort that has just begun? The goals of the town-wide "Unified Plan" very much include education and what expenditures our community is willing to make to achieve the agreed upon goals. It seems backward and counter intuitive that this HHU planning effort would not be undertaken in conjunction with or after the Unified Plan is complete. Separately, why is this effort to solicit community input only happening now, more than a year after the HHU planning started? From the beginning of that effort it has seemed as though the school Superintendent and a few members of the HHU committee have had a pre-determined plan to consolidate into 2 schools and that they are now trying to justify that decision after the fact. This is not how Wellesley has traditionally approached community-wide issues and undermines the impartiality of this current effort. Education expenditures account for about 70% of the Town's budget and neighborhood, high achieving, small schools are one of the greatest draws for people to move to Wellesley and a primary driver for high property values in the Town. Closing a school, increasing school size and making fewer walkable neighborhood schools will harm the quality of education in Wellesley, will harm property values, and will make Wellesley a less attractive place to live.</p>	10/19/2016 4:10 PM
483	<p>I sat on the finance committee and town meeting of the town I lived in before I moved to Wellesley. During my tenure, we constructed a new high school and created a master plan for our 4 elementary schools. Now, as a parent of a 2 year old and a child to be born in ~2 months, here are my thoughts: 1. One of Wellesley's defining characteristics is top-notch education. Any plan needs to ensure that we continue to recruit and retain top talent now and in the future (this should be considered both during construction and into the future once any new plan has been agreed to). 2. I have found that people are willing to pay higher taxes for causes they believe in. However, school planning alone is, I am presuming, not the only new project that is being planned over the next few years. To be fair to town meeting and the voters, if there are any other capital or operating costs the town is considering that would have a material impact on taxes, those items should be known during this process. 3. To augment point number 2, tax rates should stay on par with other towns that are considered peers. If taxes in Wellesley are significantly higher than other towns with good school systems, we will deter new families from coming to the community and house prices can fall (or at least not rise) as demand shrinks. 4. I have no longstanding affinity for any school structure. If some buildings are not handicap accessible or do not meet the future education needs of our children they should be changed through renovation or rebuilding). That said, walkability to schools and a safe community is a benefit that Wellesley offers and seems to have served previous generations well. So, if relative school location or class sizes are to change, there should be a good reason to do so. 5. Any change to the status quo will impact students during some of their most formative years. Very personally, my children will probably be in this cohort. I will personally be against any plan that changes who my children consider classmates or teachers once they have started kindergarten.</p>	10/19/2016 3:52 PM
484	<p>Unfortunately, a few people are making a lot of inaccurate noise and not looking at the big picture. Thank you for having this survey.</p>	10/19/2016 3:48 PM
485	<p>The proponents of this process have done a lousy job portraying themselves as being open to any solution beyond closing Hardy and moving to a 6 school district. The process should be driving toward consensus. It seems like the 6 school proponents are willing to push that goal at all costs. It is very disappointing.</p>	10/19/2016 3:46 PM
486	<p>i am 100% for keeping all three (HHU) neighborhood elementary schools. Smaller schools in the kids' own neighborhoods are so much kid friendlier than anything else. If we want to think what is best for the kids, then we'd keep the three schools and bring them up-to-date. Wellesley can afford to do that. What we cannot afford is ignoring what's the best for our kids.</p>	10/19/2016 3:46 PM
487	<p>I think the committee needs to listen to all public comment, but not be overrun by those that are bound and determined to defend "their school" at all costs. Increased efficiencies, without the loss of educational advantages is of utmost importance. Without any redistricting maps available, we have no clue as to whether there will be more, or fewer students who are going to a walkable, neighborhood school. There are currently students districted to Sprague, who live much closer to Hunnewell and could walk there if the school was bigger. Same for kids districted to Hardy who live closer to Bates. Many students currently districted to Hardy live in easy walking distance to Sprague. I get very frustrated with those opposed to closing a school when they declare, without evidence, that closing a school automatically eliminates neighborhood schools and creates areas where people can not walk to school. Good luck with your work.</p>	10/19/2016 3:44 PM
488	<p>I do not understand why the citizens would consider building/expanding on Upham land which is in the middle of a beautiful neighborhood and expensive land values -v- Hardy which is on a busy street with lower value (taxable) land for the community.</p>	10/19/2016 3:33 PM
489	<p>There must be a way to listen to the immediate abutters and current attendees without making the project hostage to this group. The existing schools would have not been built if our forefathers had not thought about the future and changed the status quo. Times change especially in technology and learning - and will even more in the future.</p>	10/19/2016 3:32 PM
490	<p>There is no perfect answer. There will always be a constituency that is not satisfied, but we need to find the greatest good for the greatest number.</p>	10/19/2016 3:32 PM
491	<p>Let us not follow the model of Newton where neighborhood schools were closed and consolidated into larger behemoths. The sense of community disappeared quickly. Friends and playdates became "miles" away.</p>	10/19/2016 2:35 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

492	See question 26	10/19/2016 2:21 PM
493	senior tax breaks !	10/19/2016 2:13 PM
494	Please provide the demographic change over time (50 years) of elementary school students in Wellesley. Why is this plan so expensive? What is the cost per square foot? Our middle school windows cost \$15,000 each when all costs considered as an example of expensive school building costs.	10/19/2016 2:10 PM
495	Too expensive, making it hard for retired people to live in town.	10/19/2016 1:47 PM
496	If a school is to be closed, it is critical to the affected neighborhoods to know what would go in that space. Also, as busing would need to be part of that arrangement, it needs to be made more attractive. We should know the sensitivity of the population projections and what planning is considered for capacity growth or decline.	10/19/2016 1:34 PM
497	I think the new proposal (combine 3 into 2) should consider the overall new school district boundaries, which will help people to understand what's the real impact, such as walking distance, school capacity, etc. It should not be just the impact of the three school neighborhoods. It would be helpful to see a diagram of new school district boundaries, school location and the walking distance, etc. The other thought is the Hardy school site is relatively flat and closer to main road (RT 9 and Weston ave) which is more ideal for a school and traffic circulation. The town and consultant team should considered building a new one at Hardy site instead of using north 40 site which requires clearance of existing forest and grading and is not easy to access. The new building at Hardy site could have three-floor for the required capacity and reduce the building footprint. (I am a landscape architect and have worked on several school projects.) There is no doubt that a new school facilities that can provide modernized educational environments and also has sufficient outdoor space for playground and sports. The benefits of a larger school are ti have more diversity on students and programs and lower the operational cost. However, siting the new school is crucial which will also affect the construction cost (clear the forest, grading, additional walls, blast the ledge, etc.). Circulation of parents pick up and drop off as well as walkable distance and impact on the neighbor definitely important elements to consider.	10/19/2016 1:20 PM
498	I do believe that the process has been biased from day one and continues to be. Even some of these questions show that bias. The superintendent has relentlessly pushed the 2 school solution whereas many of the residents have made clear that they prefer the 3 school solution. Two of the school committee members voting on this have been on all past committees so only one more voted is needed. We like our small schools in Wellesley. Our children went there, walked to school, stayed and played with friends in the neighborhood after school. The current situation works well -- the buildings just need to be renovated. Small schools work so let's not mess with a winning hand.	10/19/2016 12:44 PM
499	Please see my comments in the previous question.	10/19/2016 12:16 PM
500	I am in favor of going from 3 schools to 2. I know it takes time for families to adjust to change but it makes the most sense to me for fiscal reasons and for maintaining class size.	10/19/2016 12:15 PM
501	There is a significant shortage of indoor recreation/court space in Wellesley. I think any plan should include some sizeable addition to indoor recreation/court space.	10/19/2016 12:11 PM
502	No large elementary magnet school makes sense in this town.	10/19/2016 12:06 PM
503	Hardy neighborhood has more "start-up" homes that young parents with little kids can afford compared to other elementary school neighborhood. The original proposal to shut down hardy obviously would impact more families who are in need of school resources. Therefore I do not think it's a good idea.	10/19/2016 12:05 PM
504	see above... thanks for asking..	10/19/2016 12:01 PM
505	What if you have the demographic projections wrong and enrollment grows? What is contingency plan?	10/19/2016 12:00 PM
506	What a mess! I think we have to acknowledge that whatever the outcome, some people will be unhappy. But they will likely survive. The recent SC decision to ban dogs from school property during school day will deter walking, which is amusing. However, I think we need a solution that makes sense economically for all taxpayers for the long haul, not for the current snapshot of elementary students, or just vocal parents. When I moved to Wellesley, pretty much old people lived right near Hardy, now there are more young families, but it is likely to continue to ebb and flow. We need decent practical schools, as in Fiske and Bates, not fancy expensive Sprague. We can't keep spending like this! However, we also need to address parents' fears of losing their community. The kids will be fine, but the parents are scared. My kids took a bus to Fiske, which I had to pay for, (ridiculous!) despite there being no safe walkable route, and all were fine.	10/19/2016 11:54 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

507	<p>In my estimation, the financial problem is that the Town has recently incurred several big expenses (St. James, North 40, etc) with funds that usually would have been spent on schools. Now that these expenses have been incurred the place to save money by default is the schools. St. James, North 40 etc. are nice to have but they are not essential and I'd go so far as to say that they don't in a substantial way bring homebuyers to Wellesley nor do people move to Wellesley for these things. Schools on the other hand do bring in homebuyers, people move to Wellesley for the schools, and the schools, as long as they meet with the approval of parents, do increase property values. So, although recent big expenditures by the Town make saving money by squeezing the schools expedient, it is a bad idea for the Town as the schools provide the best return on investment measured by property values. If Wellesley's schools are seen to deteriorate this will push down property values as people move out and fewer new people move in. To see what I mean here, go look at how much property values have gone up in the last 20 years in Wellesley. Much of this increase is driven by folks wanting the Wellesley Public Schools. Also, this kind of huge investment return makes the property taxes needed to fuel it justifiable as one gets all of those taxes back when one sells the appreciated home. This is an argument that needs to be made to help justify the property tax increases that this project will necessitate. Please don't soak the schools because the Town made deals for St. James, North 40, etc. To do this would be penny wise but pound foolish. Also, just like at the high school, the most economically palatable plan will probably not involve conserving everything people want to conserve. So, one way to get the best schools for the cheapest price (which may be needed for this project to be viable with voters) is for constituents to just accept that in the financial climate that exists some (maybe a lot of) conservation must be let go so the project can go forward.</p>	10/19/2016 11:42 AM
508	<p>I am very appreciative of the hard work that has been done by this committee. This is an important decision for the future of our town. I am in favor of a plan that allows for children in town to walk to neighborhood schools if they'd like, while ensuring that the schools themselves allow for modern educational programming including reasonable gym facilities, learning centers, shared spaces, etc. I also feel that in a time of fiscal constraint and potentially shrinking enrollments, I'd rather see operating resources used wisely to maintain level services across the district than support 7 schools if only 6 are found to be needed.</p>	10/19/2016 11:41 AM
509	<p>I am concerned that the consultants brought in to look at enrollment projections are underestimating the future enrollment. Did either of the consultants or members of the committee drive around town with the planning or building department and see what is going on in our neighborhoods, especially the Hardy district? New housing for young families is popping up everywhere and some sections looked like planned developments because there is so much building. New construction for developments is probably in our future. I think that gps guided traffic apps like google and waze are affecting traffic in town more than where the schools are located. I think it is very unfair and unwise to put a much larger school in the Upham neighborhood for a variety of reasons, including traffic. I do not think the Hunnewell area can tolerate more cars either. Hardy is on a main road that gets a lot of commuter traffic during work rush hours. There are only 180 school days in a year. Are more traffic studies going to be performed or has that issue fallen to the wayside? Overall, I think the best way to deal with traffic is to evenly divide the students among the three schools similar to what we have now. I think the town's thinking about HHU would be more realistic if other "secret" ideas were out in the open, including possible future uses of the old Hardy (preschool program or administrative offices) and whether permanent additions could or should be added to Fiske (similar to Bates?) or Schofield as a way to deal with HHU. If one school absolutely has to be closed I would think it should be Upham since it is so close to Bates and it is the smallest school. Could Upham be renovated for a preschool or administrative offices? But my top preference is for a three school solution.</p>	10/19/2016 11:41 AM
510	<p>Instead of making a proposal to fix all 3 schools, perhaps it would be smarter to go one step at a time. Pick the next school which makes the most sense and move forward with town approval for that. We know we would like to keep to a school which has 18-21 sections. So just choose the 'no brainer' school to keep and begin renovating that one. We need to move this decision forward quickly. Because now we have 3 schools full of children in less than optimal conditions.</p>	10/19/2016 11:38 AM
511	<p>I don't understand what neighborhood schools are as the majority of parents drive their children to school. Wellesley students have many advantages, I don't think if class size was increased slightly it would be a crisis situation particularly if the teacher was outstanding. Concerned about tax consequences on senior citizens who are the overwhelming majority of representatives in town government. Would prefer an end to endless consultant studies that produce the same results over and over, and waste taxpayer money.</p>	10/19/2016 11:37 AM
512	<p>Do not build a super-sized Upham. I will not support it. Do not remove the ledge or the trees behind Upham. The streets around Upham were not designed for large amounts of traffic. What a traffic nightmare it will be if you build a super-sized Upham. This neighborhood should not be the site of a huge elementary school. A large elementary school would be better suited at the North 40.</p>	10/19/2016 11:37 AM
513	<p>To date, residences have been well informed. I applaud this survey as part of the communications effort. There is an emotional component to these decisions which seems to be understood. However, please keep the "driver" of your decisions on the things that will be beneficial to learning and will improve outcomes for students. In fact, it would be appropriate to have a list of "educational improvements" be part of the formal objectives and outcomes being sought. I would welcome such a list in order to keep these needs at the forefront of this Town-wide effort.</p>	10/19/2016 11:34 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

514	To not have Hunnewell or any elementary school located close to downtown Wellesley would be a huge mistake. It is conveniently located next to Wellesley's main library and walking distance to town which maintains Wellesley's small town charm and makes it attractive to investors and families moving into our community.	10/19/2016 11:32 AM
515	In-situ renovation is a better option to protect current neighborhood fabric.	10/19/2016 11:08 AM
516	We are experiencing "progress"! Population changes are normal in communities and we have to adjust to those changes. School consolidation and renewal is part of that.	10/19/2016 11:06 AM
517	I appreciate the effort the MPC has taken to involve the community in the process but believe strongly that ultimately, our elected decision makers - the BOS - should make a decision that they feel is the right one based on the facts and information at hand.	10/19/2016 11:00 AM
518	Make your decision of facts, not emotions.	10/19/2016 10:58 AM
519	Although I do not currently have children in Wellesley's elementary schools, I did attend Hunnewell and walked each day to and from school (approx. 0.7 miles each way). Walkability to an historical neighborhood school is a characteristic the Town should strive to preserve for future generations.	10/19/2016 10:57 AM
520	I am also in favor of redistricting if it helps alleviate building concerns and projected costs. For example, I recall reading Fiske was at capacity while Upham had capacity. Assuming this is somewhat accurate, perhaps new school lines will help balance the issues at hand. Also, there could be an incentive for being in the Fiske district and having your children go to Upham. I'm not sure how plausible this is, but something like free busing or discounted after school care could sway some families. Or, some sort of open enrollment process that allows families to switch districts without the standard permission process and have the guarantee that all children within the same family will be grandfathered in to the selected school.	10/19/2016 10:46 AM
521	Plz don't close the hardy school. Thx!	10/19/2016 10:41 AM
522	I would be concerned that the cost for consolidating two schools and building a brand new, large elementary school would take away from the already suffering budget for Special Education.	10/19/2016 10:05 AM
523	We need to stop dragging this out, and the "save neighborhood schools" slogan is misleading. In my opinion, we don't have neighborhood schools now. Look at the sprague district as it is today - that's hardly a neighborhood school. The longer this goes on, the higher the cost will be. It's time to make a decision.	10/19/2016 10:04 AM
524	It seems a decision was reached before the process started, and you're all now dealing with the fallout of the community not being behind that decision.	10/19/2016 9:54 AM
525	Since we live on the northern side of route 9, I would be concerned about an outcome that does not maintain at least two elementary schools on the north side of route 9 and west of route 16. I would want the HHU committee to evaluate which neighborhoods or districts in Wellesley may see an increase in school age enrollment and factor that into any investment decision. It is not clear that it makes sense to maintain a majority of schools south of route 9 if there is a majority of school age children living north of route 9.	10/19/2016 9:45 AM
526	Walking. Walking. Walking. I would support ANY plan at (almost) ANY cost that enabled the highest number of families to walk to their respective elementary schools. And I would oppose any plan that involves closing a school.	10/19/2016 9:40 AM
527	I'm more concerned with the traffic/congestion on Weston Road due to the Hardy School.	10/19/2016 9:36 AM
528	At least something is finally being done, which people appreciate. I'm surprised that Hardy has been allowed to languish in its current state for as long as it has. I would have expected a school-by-school master plan to have been in place a decade or more ago, starting with Sprague and Bates, then moving to Hardy etc. through the elementary schools, rebuilding them. It's surprising that there actually was no plan until this one. The Hardy part of town is very dense with children as it's relatively affordable, and it needs a school. Hardy's problem has always been that it's over-crowded, not that it lacks students or should close. Quite the contrary. I have no idea who is pushing to keep the "historical" part of the building, but to me (even though my kids will be long gone from Hardy at that point), a new school deeper onto the site would have a lot of long term value for the town. There would actually be room for 3 sections per grade (which there isn't now), specialist spaces for art and music (there isn't room for both now). Significantly, there will be fewer school-related car trips overall in town if this area can remain walkable for many students or at least require short car trips rather than cross-town trips (which puts more families on the roads with other drivers getting to work at the same time).	10/19/2016 9:08 AM
529	Families move to Wellesley for high quality neighborhood schools. They do not want aggregated large elementary schools. The school committee needs to do a better job of explaining the reasons for their proposed plans. Many of the explanations put forth so far are either superficial or illogical.	10/19/2016 9:07 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

530	Neighborhood elementary schools were the #1 reason we chose to buy our home in Wellesley over neighboring towns like Weston. I would much rather have over-capacity in our schools with room to expand as populations fluctuate than get stuck with under-capacity in the future. There is so much construction going on right now in Wellesley, and I have to believe the majority of these newer, larger, houses are going to be sold to families with young children. This decision has to be made with consideration for how the town's population could shift in the next 50+ years, not just the next 5 or 10 years.	10/19/2016 9:04 AM
531	I am glad that the HHU Master Plan Committee is doing a survey. My impression up to this point was that this committee was really not interested in community input, particularly from those opposed to the idea of closing Hardy and building a large new Upham. For example, last year's petition signed by 1,500 town residents has been ignored and representatives from the group have been excluded from the HHU Master Plan Committee, resulting in inherent bias to move towards one particular outcome of this project.	10/19/2016 8:40 AM
532	Not all schools within town are "neighborhood" schools and walkable. Should the entire town pay for an additional school so that one neighborhood/district could benefit from having a smaller school in close proximity to their homes, when that option is not available to all other neighborhoods? Perhaps existing school sites are not the best school sites. Class size and school size don't matter. Parent participation and involvement are a bigger determinant. Busing, walking or biking should be the norm.	10/19/2016 8:35 AM
533	What will happen with North 40... If a lot more houses are built then we will need three schools. I would like to see a minimum of 3 classrooms for each grade... anything smaller is just too small.	10/19/2016 8:28 AM
534	I think Upham is way too small. I look forward to a larger school although my child will be long gone. I support what makes sense economically given the enrollment projections. Even if this means closing Upham	10/19/2016 8:23 AM
535	See above This project is studied to the extreme and has been hijacked by parent interest groups who can't see the economics of the original proposal. I do think the north 40 should be used. Many voters thought that was the highest and best use for a portion of that purchase.	10/19/2016 7:51 AM
536	When sections of schools are being "closed" I don't see the demolition of a school as the smart answer.	10/19/2016 7:41 AM
537	I would advise the HHU project and its communications advisors to consider the following: -Clearly outlining the operating cost case of the reduction in the number of schools. If this could be put in context of the usual operating cost challenges, that may be helpful for people to understand. (For example: "Each year, the externally driven cost increases (teacher contracts, etc.) are equal to a x% increase in operating costs. Therefore, every year, it is a challenge to maintain, let alone add the new services and curriculum our parents want to see. If we reduced the number of schools by one, that would allow us to reallocate x% of our District budget to be better able to address cost pressures.) -I would perhaps bring in a speaker or parent from a larger sized elementary school (similar to the proposed Upham) who could be persuasive about the educational experience and culture of their school. -I would challenge the perception of the percentage of students walking daily to their "neighbourhood schools" with data about the actual daily experience. Should we design a school system for the ideals of a walking distance school, or the reality of the carpool and bus experience?	10/19/2016 7:33 AM
538	I think it's important to try and save all three schools. I think the town residents believe Lussier has an agenda to go down to two and this whole thing is a dog and pony show with his preferred outcome pre ordained. We've closed schools before and then had to rebuild and expand existing ones because of it. Let's keep and update our existing schools. If Upham were built to be a bit bigger we could redistribute some of the people who are in the Farms and currently have to drive through town to get to Sprague.	10/19/2016 7:12 AM
539	my biggest concern, which has not even been in this survey, is that continually people move into town and overflow the class sizes. I think we should be planning to have extra space, not "just enough space." I lived in Wellesley when Brown and Warren closed. Those buildings were also great neighborhood schools and now we need more space. I do not trust long term projections because for the majority of our time at Hardy there was no art or music room due to over enrollment.	10/19/2016 6:17 AM
540	We are strongly opposed to the model of 2 large schools. We would like to see estimates of the hard dollar operating cost savings associated with 2 schools versus 3 schools. We don't believe that those savings exist. The difference in staff size and staff cost would be negligible if we hold classroom size constant. It's not clear why the consolidation is even being proposed other than to build new schools for the 2 neighborhoods.	10/19/2016 5:39 AM
541	Parents of young children are drawn to Wellesley because of its highly regarded public school system, but what makes Wellesley so desirable is the quintessential New England charm that small neighborhood schools provide and where parents walk their kids to school and actively involved in the school and community. School closings should ALWAYS be a LAST resort and to consider closing a school such as, Hardy where students display high academic achievements and the school has full enrollment, just sounds like an unwisely and poorly thought out decision. Furthermore, as a tax payer, it is our strong public schools that make Wellesley one of the most desirable towns to live in, and would not close down a school due to budget costs. Let the taxpayers vote to decide on the value we place on our children's education and stop wasting time and tax payers money to persuade us one way or another.	10/19/2016 2:48 AM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

542	I truly hope that this survey was created to take the taxpayers' opinions into serious consideration. Thus far, it has been quite clear that the plan is to close one elementary school regardless of how many Wellesley citizens oppose that plan. If you don't continue to FULLY explore the option of keeping all 7 elementary schools open, I believe that a debt exclusion for this project will get voted down.	10/19/2016 12:28 AM
543	I have been disappointed with this process. I attended a number of HHU meetings and the discussion always focused on a two school scenario. I thought the new committee was developed to research all scenarios.	10/19/2016 12:05 AM
544	It's been really hard to find objective information about the project! Specifically, if the project results in redistricting (even temporarily), will non-HHU families also be affected? I hope not but haven't been able to find answers. Part of what we love about Wellesley is the neighborhood feel, and the identity each section of town has affiliated with its elementary school. We have only lived here since 2015 but don't want that feeling to change. I hope that ultimately we can get to a point where Wellesley has enough awesome elementary schools that are modern in both facilities and offerings, and all students have a constructive learning environment.	10/19/2016 12:04 AM
545	Consider planning for PAWS. Perhaps the current PAWS building could be repurposed as admin space, for instance. I would like to thank everyone for their time and continued efforts in what is a difficult task -- understatement the of the year!	10/18/2016 11:56 PM
546	It seems as if realtors and current parents are very concerned with this issue. What I don't understand is the inability to plan for change. The inconvenience of a few years is a blip in their education. The education world has changed and the only way to move forward is to prepare for the future. Wellesley has an excellent educational reputation. People will move here whether or not there are neighborhood schools. How is it beneficial to a child who attends a smaller school with only one clas per grade and then goes to the middle school? How can teachers collaborate in such small schools? Larger schools can accommodate enrollment swings far better. Population projections have been woefully inaccurate over the years. This debate also demonstrates why we need a town manager. There is simply not enough oversight of this enormous school budget. The bottom line and tax implications should have more importance than historic features, trees, walkability, etc.	10/18/2016 11:28 PM
547	Do not eliminate any of the existing elementary schools and keep the costs minimal to taxpayers.	10/18/2016 11:19 PM
548	Please keep all schools. Do not close any of them! Think about child education when you do the planning. Education is more important than traffic or cost. People come to Wellesley for better education. Thanks!	10/18/2016 10:58 PM
549	Thank you for your work on it.	10/18/2016 10:44 PM
550	We should not be inhibited from asking for what is best for kids. We have an obligation to pursue the best - and small schools/small classes are best. If it costs more, so be it. We will get something good and long-lasting for our investment. The reason Wellesley is such a wonderful town to live in is because generations of citizens and taxpayers have invested in and committed to building what we all enjoy today. It is time for our generation to do our part, building something solid, good, and long-lasting.	10/18/2016 10:43 PM
551	Closing the Upham School and selling the land for development would provide considerable \$\$ to the Town to help defray the costs.	10/18/2016 10:32 PM
552	I do not support converting the Hardy School into administrative offices for any reason. That would only ensure the numbers of administrators would grow. There is no correlation between successful educational outcomes (e.g., improved graduation rates, increased test scores) and increasing numbers of administrators. There is correlation between good outcomes and small classes with good teachers. Invest in the classrooms! Pay excellent teachers to teach small classes in small schools and you will see great results.	10/18/2016 10:30 PM
553	Children have their whole lives to be in large environments - middle school, high school, college, careers, etc. I deem it very valuable for them to have small elementary school environment with an neighborhood/community feel.	10/18/2016 10:26 PM
554	Keep all three schools so the walkable neighborhood schools remain in Wellesley!	10/18/2016 10:23 PM
555	Small schools are challenging to staff with part-time specialists and the increased impact of reduced sections that occurs some years. The proposed plan to consolidate into 6 equal sized schools is fiscally responsible and logistically sensible.	10/18/2016 10:09 PM
556	It would be environmentally irresponsible to promote a plan that required a significant increase in vehicle traffic in town. To our family, it is worth the extra money in taxes to preserve neighborhood schools.	10/18/2016 10:09 PM
557	Neighborhood schools are a part of Wellesley's attraction. We don't want to be another suburban town with mega schools where our children are bussed.	10/18/2016 10:01 PM
558	The small neighborhood schools are one of the most tangible things that make Wellesley so special. Please consider keeping this model.	10/18/2016 9:59 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

559	I live near three elementary schools and could have walked my children to all three schools. Closing a school does not necessarily mean losing the ability to walk to your neighborhood school. I know this is an emotionally charged subject but if we can take a step back and appreciate what we will have after renovation it is still a wonderful situation. I don't feel that a school with 400-450 children or so is supesize. My children attended Sprague with approx 435 children and I felt like I knew the community well. Thank you to the volunteers of the HHU committee.	10/18/2016 9:58 PM
560	We highly value the ability for my daughter to be able to walk to school when she is ready to attend elementary school. We purchased a home 10 years ago for the exact reason. Smaller school, smaller class size, walkability to school are important factors in moving into Wellesley and the neighborhood. Tax increase is a concern, but not the only concern. I would support renovating all three school - not to the "fancy" or "top of the line" school structures, but something moderate or even mediocre and can support an education environment.	10/18/2016 9:46 PM
561	The issue of making Hardy into an administration building seems to be an add on expense that was not originally included. It would require major renovation to accommodate this kind of a change. The money would be better spent for the children and teachers. How come the viewpoint of the teachers has never been included in the discussion of what they know from experience to be the best situation for their students? I also think the Hardy playground site should be maintained at some level.. If only 2 schools the busing expense would be a substantial addition to the budget. I would be very concerned if there were not sufficient buses to accommodate a reasonable time schedule and a shorter time on the bus.	10/18/2016 9:46 PM
562	Many families move to Wellesley after spending the first 1-5 years in Boston. I have a lot of concerns that we are not taking this into consideration when considering births in Wellesley. People don't get married and move to the suburbs and then have children. Oftentimes, couples without children tend to live in more urban areas and only settle in the suburbs when they reach the age where they must choose between private schools in the city or suburban public schools. Is anyone studying those migration paths? Additionally, all of the knockdowns in my neighborhood have had elderly residents selling/leaving and new families moving into the houses. Yet, from what I have heard in recent meetings, knockdowns have no impact on enrollment numbers. This makes no logical sense, and I have deep concerns that the SC wants a school closed and is ignoring important patterns.	10/18/2016 9:42 PM
563	I purchased my house in Wellesley primarily for the strong reputation of the school district. I paid a premium in price per sq ft for my house compared to other towns. Not funding the schools will hurt that reputation and hurt the value of my home. I have also seen home buyers pay a premium for Bates over Hardy. for very similar new construction houses only a block or two away from each other in the Fells area. I do not believe that Bates has better teachers, but this premium paid for Bates proves that people moving into town view the condition of a school as a reflection of the quality of the education at the school. Having old rundown schools hurts the perception of the quality of education in Wellesley. I think 3 classes per grade should be the maximum for a school. I believe the children benefit from having a smaller cohort in the early years of their education. Also, I believe there is a stronger sense of community at a smaller school.	10/18/2016 9:36 PM
564	I would like to understand how the new schools will compare to Schofield and Fiske? Will we be renovating them again soon to offer comparable state of the art facilities or will there be real disparity across the neighborhoods in terms of the quality of the schools. Is there a change planned in the district lines in the near future? Residents deserve to understand the planned school lines as part of a proposal for how many schools are being recommended.	10/18/2016 9:33 PM
565	The town has spoken more clearly on this matter than on anything in its recent history; we want to retain our community schools. The time and effort should be focused on how to preserve the schools and our educational environment; not on identifying and exploring scenarios that are not what the town wants.	10/18/2016 9:09 PM
566	I think that we need to accept the reality that the many benefits of larger buildings (possibly 3 classes per grade) are greater than the nostalgic dreams of " a school on every corner." I saw the transition of the change from 12 elementary schools in the 1970s to 6 in the mid 1980s. All settled down just fine and the kids benefited from the larger schools that didn't need to share school nurses, guidance counselors, librarians, etc. Similar analogies can likely be made in the current debate. I suspect that, if it could be done again, we would not have expanded Sprague. Rather the better course would have been to work to make the school count stay at 6 - even if it had meant closing one of the present schools (Hardy?) as a part of justifying Sprague. Thank you.	10/18/2016 8:35 PM
567	1) What about renovating all 3 schools to keep costs down while improving the facilities and minimizing impact to the environment? 2) There was no clarification added to this survey that building a school on the N40 meant closing Hardy and maybe closing Upham/Hardy as requested during BOS meeting yesterday (Oct 17 meeting).	10/18/2016 8:30 PM
568	I'd like to go on record as opposing any plan that will eliminate one or more of our neighborhood schools and will work diligently to defeat any debt exclusion that incorporates that plan.	10/18/2016 8:15 PM
569	I am concerned about losing after school capacity if a school closes.	10/18/2016 8:08 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

570	I would like to see articulated the vision and priority considerations for decisions: i.e., is the top priority that which provides whatever is defined as "the best educational opportunity for the children"?; or smaller schools that cost more money and have excess capacity so that every child lives within a certain distance from a school (not likely given Wellesley's demographics and boundaries); or that which balances (with inevitable compromises) people's top 3 priorities? My children were not redistricted during their tenure in Wellesley schools but they did attend both the MS and HS before extensive renovations were made; their elementary school also had modulars. I honestly believe some parents who have not had the full 13 year educational experience sometimes overestimate the harm and adjustment necessary for children. Many of my friends' children were redistricted and frankly the children got over it and made friends a lot quicker than the parents did.	10/18/2016 7:54 PM
571	I have concerns about the proposal to build a parking deck next to the library. I have concerns about the proposal to remove ledge and forest at the Upham site. I have huge concerns about the possible end of neighborhood schools if Hardy closes. I have concerns about the potential size of a new, very large school at the Upham site. Size does matter. Also, this would create an UN-equal educational experience within the town with children going to different size schools. I am very willing to pay higher taxes to maintain neighborhood schools for all Wellesley children.	10/18/2016 7:50 PM
572	When TM approved the purchase of the North 40, the Town was told that the land would be an ideal place to build a school. Since that time, SC and the Superintendent have backed away from the North 40. It seems to me that a potential solution to the HHU issue would be as follows: 1. build a new 18 classroom school on the North 40. 2. move Hunnewell school children into the new school, renovate/expand Hunnewell to be a modern 18 classroom school. 3. move Hunnewell children back to Hunnewell, repeat steps 2 and 3 with Upham. 4. move Hardy students into new school, demo Hardy 5. if extra capacity exists with these 3 schools, use it to expand PAWs	10/18/2016 7:30 PM
573	Its essential that it feel like a town wide project and not a neighborhood project, pitting one part of town against another.	10/18/2016 7:21 PM
574	Save all 3 schools. That is the only plan I can vote yes to.	10/18/2016 7:16 PM
575	No decision will please everyone. This is not a popularity contest. The more consultants engaged, the longer the delay and larger the buyer price tag.	10/18/2016 7:11 PM
576	preserving the neighborhood school concept is extremely important. children should be encouraged to walk to school. traffic congestion is a critical factor for everyone living in the neighborhood. maintaining as much forestry and open space is also extremely important.	10/18/2016 7:00 PM
577	Thank you to everyone involved. I greatly appreciate the thoughtfulness of the committee.	10/18/2016 6:39 PM
578	Please do not close Hardy school...build a new one but keep the school available and in the neighborhood.	10/18/2016 6:35 PM
579	Cost for homes with children. O longer in school Also survey questions promote a "yes" response	10/18/2016 6:35 PM
580	One issue that wasn't addressed here in the designing of these buildings is the ways in which the space or spaces will address and optimize a changing learning environment. The WPS seemed to prioritize this with multiple showings of Most Likely to Succeed. I am a little distressed to see that these aren't expressed here as a planning piece. The focus instead just seems to be on costs, traffic, and neighborhood schools. But what good is this project if it doesn't provide an ideal environment in which to educate our children and the children down the road.	10/18/2016 6:30 PM
581	Six schools are More than enough. We have been Wasting tax-payers money for Years. The school committee believed that a 24 classroom Sprague was fine, and that was reduced to 18. I still believe a 21 classroom elementary school is fine. Close Hardy and let's move on.	10/18/2016 6:26 PM
582	Though I live in the Upham district now, we lived on Ravine Road when my children were in elementary school between 1998-2007. They attended Schofield, and then were redistricted to Sprague the year it opened. They were never part of a "neighborhood school", and took the bus all through elementary school. I dreaded them moving from Schofield to Sprague (that beautiful new school), and fought it vigorously. In the end, they were fine, our family was fine, and we all have many more Wellesley friends than when we started. Elementary parents are a tough crowd (I know, I was an elementary school parent too), but children and adults adapt. Thanks for your efforts, and good luck!	10/18/2016 6:06 PM
583	Wellesley residents can afford to renovate and keep three schools open - especially given that we have almost 100 large new homes being built every year. Those have a much larger tax base. And those homes typically have school-age children moving into them.	10/18/2016 6:04 PM
584	I think it is essential to build consensus on the HHU project and this survey is a good step forward. I realize that deciding the fate of HHU is a Herculean task, but if a large part of the community feels disenfranchised, it is clear to me that a debt exclusion for HHU will fail (either at Town Meeting, or more likely, at the town-wide vote). Lessons from the Town Manager debacle should be internalized! To all members of the School Committee and HHU Master Plan Committee, thank you for your service. I'm sure it has been a grueling process ;-) [NAME REDACTED]	10/18/2016 6:00 PM
585	I would like to thank all the members of the HHU MPC for the time they have spent and continue to spend on this important issue.	10/18/2016 5:54 PM

## The HHU Master Plan Committee wants your opinion!

586	I would support a new school at the North 40. I would vigorously oppose any plans to construct residences or businesses in the North 40, if no school were built there. If no school is built on the North 40, then I would only support active or passive recreational uses there.	10/18/2016 5:41 PM
587	I have been very concerned about this process from the beginning and urge you to take the time to find a way to rebuild all three schools. Families buy their homes for the area of town they want to live in and their lifestyle. Many want to be able to walk to school, town, train etc. Do not close a school and put more kids in cars than is necessary. Wellesley prides itself on our schools and they have been wonderful there is no reason to change what Wellesley is known for. Slightly bigger schools should make everyone happy, maybe the 18 section model. I would not vote for a debt exclusion that doesn't contain a 3 school plan.	10/18/2016 5:37 PM
588	Ditto what I said above.	10/18/2016 5:36 PM
589	The HHU seems biased towards reducing the number of schools. I wish that I was not given this perception, as I think it undermines their credibility as a trusted advisor.	10/18/2016 5:36 PM
590	I think neighborhood schools are extremely important, especially in this day and age. The relationships that are built up by children and their families are precious and long lasting. Getting on a bus or being driven to some large school in another part of town doesn't do it.	10/18/2016 5:35 PM
591	Since some of the questions on the survey were hard to answer because of how they were worded, I would like to be very clear - even if it involves my school (Hunnewell) and my real estate values, I still support the district's recommendation. I believe it's often necessary for some personal sacrifice for the good of the majority. I hope others in town will look at the issue this way as well.	10/18/2016 5:33 PM
592	I wish the project had more transparency. I wish all sides were presented and the public could have commented and helped stream line the process several years ago. The devisive nature of it is very frustrating.	10/18/2016 5:30 PM
593	The proposal to create the Upham site as a larger school seems completely backwards to me. Upham is typically under-enrolled, and its location is in a labyrinth of winding, sparsely populated residential streets that cannot be accessed from any main road. Most Upham area residents send their children to private school or no longer have school aged children, and Bates is only 1/4 mile walk away. Logistically, Upham is a terrible site and would require more busing and driving. On the other hand, Hardy's site is favorably located on a main street with easy access by bus/car/foot by a dense and growing school-aged population. If the traffic light were re-positioned and the driveway reconfigured, Hardy's property would be ideal. The building would need to be set back farther. I don't object to the concept of closing one school. However, anyone looking at a map, enrollment numbers, and construction patterns questions why Upham would be chosen as a consolidation point.	10/18/2016 5:30 PM
594	I don't understand why the preference is to build the new school at upham when it has the least kids ( and many that go to private school )...so the redistricting would put lots more people in cars...	10/18/2016 5:27 PM
595	Thank you for taking the time to work on this complicated project! Good luck!	10/18/2016 5:23 PM
596	I think the current plan to consolidate schools is moving away from what makes Wellesley elementary schools so special. We are looking at financial considerations and efficiency. We are forgetting how effective the education is in those elementary schools (never mind the traffic impact if we change the current model).	10/18/2016 5:19 PM
597	It seems like some of the questions were worded in a manner that directed one to appear to be in support of a 2 school option.	10/18/2016 5:10 PM
598	I do not believe consolidating three schools to two schools will maintain the neighborhood elementary school experience Wellesley is known for and for which has provided an exceptional educational and developmental experience for our children. I do not see how there will be parity amongst all the elementary schools if one of those schools is significantly larger than the rest. I believe if there is consolidation, this will eventually lead to reconfiguration of the school system as a whole; especially when Fiske and Schofield eventually need to be rebuilt.	10/18/2016 4:05 PM