
HHU Public Forum

February 16, 2017

MPC Charge

- Foremost, the plan must adequately support the educational program, with goals of providing a world-class education for all students, maintaining current School Committee class size guidelines, and supporting educators' needs.
- The plan must preserve Wellesley's neighborhood school model.
- The plan must take into account enrollment needs, based on the Committee's evaluation of the various enrollment projections available.
- The plan must account for the need for swing space, with a goal of minimizing disruption to students and their families, staff and surrounding neighborhoods.
- While redistricting is likely to be a significant consideration in some potential plans, and the Committee may consider various redistricting models, the Committee is not charged with developing a final detailed redistricting recommendation.
- The Committee must consider the plan's needs and costs with respect to school transportation.
- The Committee must consider any plan's projected impact on traffic and safety.
- When considering any plan that includes a school closure, the Committee must consider the emotional and cultural impact of closing a school.
- The Committee must consider the historic nature of each of the three buildings.
- The Committee must consider sustainability and environmental factors, and weigh those aspects against other considerations.
- The Committee must consider the relative financial impact on the Town of potential plans, including both capital investment and ongoing operating costs.
- The Committee must consider the recommended plan's potential for gaining approval from Town Meeting and the Wellesley community as a whole.

Members

School District/Neighborhood Representatives (6):

- Bates – Nancy Calderwood (Education)
- Fiske – Jose Arias Soliva (Architecture)
- Hardy – Sara Jane Shanahan (Law - Litigation)
- Hunnewell – Todd Ofenloch (Finance)
- Schofield – Scott Vaughn (Architecture/Law)
- Upham - Ed Cloaninger (Law - Taxation)

At-Large Representatives (5):

- Seong-II Ahn – Architecture (Hardy)
- Stephan Gauldie – Market Analysis & Strategic Consulting (Hardy)
- Allan Port – Town Government, Mathematics (Hunnewell)
- David Stern – Architecture (Hunnewell)
- Maura Sullivan – Engineering, Project Management & Planning (Upham)

Town Board & Staff Representatives (7):

- Ellen Gibbs - Board of Selectmen
- Sharon Gray - School Committee
- Matt Kelley - School Committee
- Megan Jop – Assistant Executive Director
- David Lussier – Superintendent of Wellesley Public Schools
- Jack Morgan - Board of Selectmen
- Lara Pfadt - Planning Board

HHU MPC Meetings & Process

- 30 HHU MPC Meetings since April 2016
- Several meetings of Walkability and Public Outreach Subcommittees
- 4 Public Outreach Sessions in October and November 2016
- Town-wide survey in fall 2016 with over 2,000 Citizen Responses
- Meetings with Upham and Hardy PTOs upon their invitation
- Engaged Consultants, including, demographer, architects, professional cost-estimators, outreach consultants, and traffic consultants
- School Committee issued request for information re swing space

Motion #1 – February 2, 2017 HHU Meeting

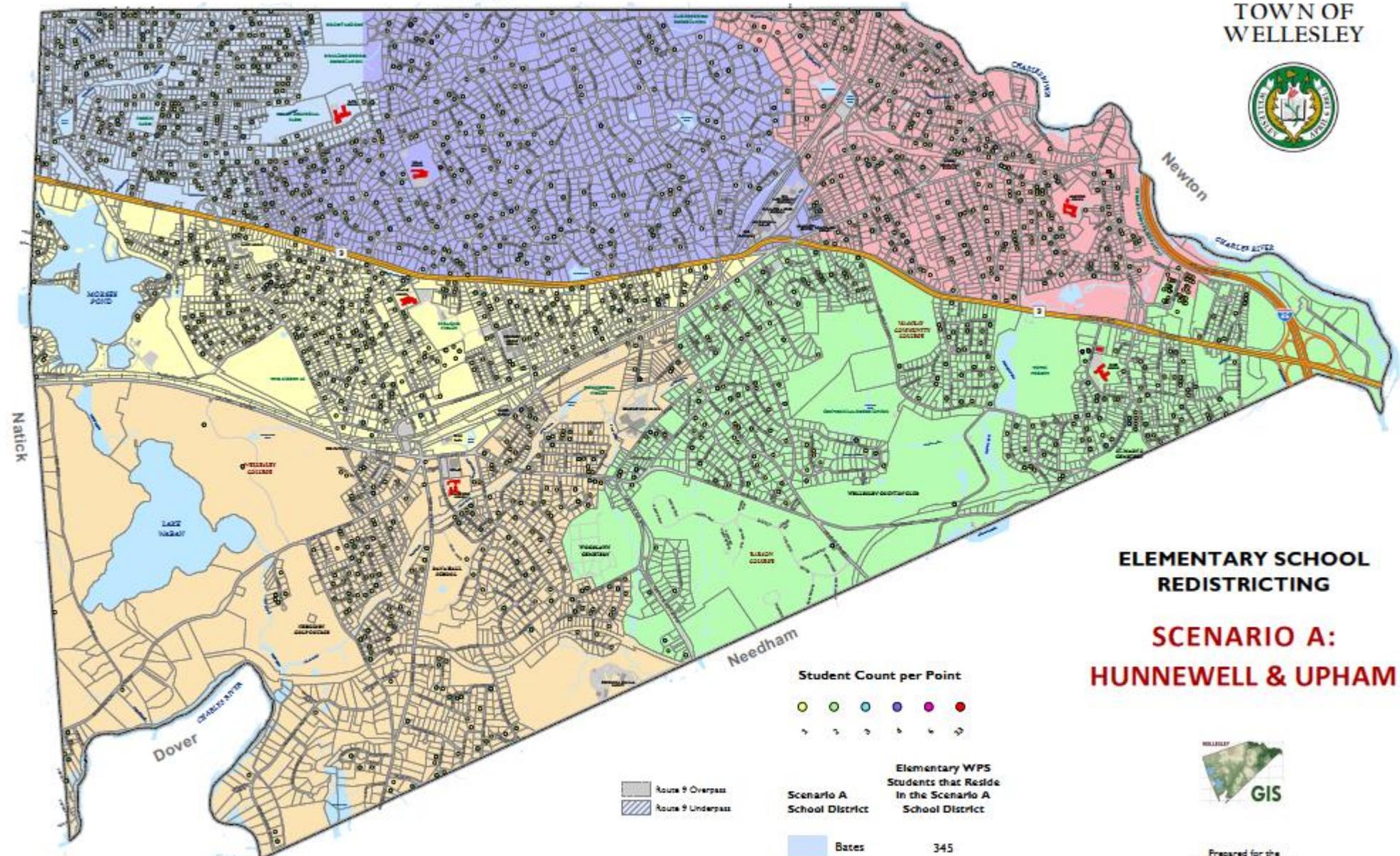
Moved that the HHU MPC recommend to the School Committee that it seek approval and funds to undertake a feasibility study to build new schools at the Hardy, Hunnewell, and Upham sites, with the plan to build a 19 section school at Hardy or Upham, followed by a 19 section school at Hunnewell, followed by a 19 section school at the remaining site, provided, however, that funds will be sought for the design and construction of the first two schools upon completion of the feasibility study, but funds will be sought for the design and construction of the third school only upon further recommendation by the School Committee, which should occur if elementary enrollment reaches or appears likely to exceed 2,350 students on a trending basis and/or the current school configurations are limiting educational needs.

Passed 13-1

FACTORS	SCENARIO A (Upham and Hunnewell)	SCENARIO B/D (Hardy and Hunnewell)	SCENARIO E (Hardy, Upham, and Hunnewell)
Cost to build	\$107 Million	\$102 Million	\$150 Million
Operational Savings	\$500,000/year (Maintenance costs remain for Hardy)	\$500,000/year (Maintenance costs remain for Upham)	Steady operational costs/possible energy savings
Neighborhood Impacts	Closing of Hardy	Closing of Upham	No school closing
Swing Space	Upham on hill	Hardy at back of lot	Upham on hill OR Hardy at back of lot

FACTORS	SCENARIO A (Upham and Hunnewell)	SCENARIO B/D (Hardy and Hunnewell)	SCENARIO E (Hardy, Upham, and Hunnewell)
Learning Impacts – expected school population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 3 sections per grade * 358 students per school at 2,150 (projected future enrollment) * 376 per school at 2,256 (current enrollment) * 392 per school at 2,350 (tipping point enrollment) * 413 students per school at 2,480 (recent peak enrollment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 3 sections per grade * 358 students per school at 2,150 (projected future enrollment) * 376 per school at 2,256 (current enrollment) * 392 per school at 2,350 (tipping point enrollment) * 413 students per school at 2,480 (recent peak enrollment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 2 to 3 sections per grade * 307 students per school at 2,150 (projected future enrollment) * 322 per school at 2,256 (current enrollment) * 336 per school at 2,350 (tipping point enrollment) * 354 per school at 2,480 (recent peak enrollment)

FACTORS	SCENARIO A (Upham and Hunnewell)	SCENARIO B/D (Hardy and Hunnewell)	SCENARIO E (Hardy, Upham, and Hunnewell)
Enrollment capacity	Two 21 section schools maintain capacity; OR Two 19 section schools reduce capacity by 4 classrooms.	Two 21 section schools maintain capacity; OR Two 19 section schools reduce capacity by 4 classrooms.	Three 18 section schools increase capacity by 12 classrooms.
Educational needs	New schools – 21 st century learning/ADA compliant/modern facilities, security, fire safety/gym and cafeteria	New schools – 21 st century learning/ADA compliant/modern facilities, security, fire safety/gym and cafeteria	New schools -- 21 st century learning/ADA compliant/modern facilities, security, fire safety/gym and cafeteria
Attendance zones	Changes for Upham/Bates/Hardy/Sprague/Hunnewell districts	Changes for Upham/Bates/Hardy/Sprague/Hunnewell districts	Limited redistricting to rebalance student population town-wide



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REDISTRICTING
SCENARIO A:
HUNNEWELL & UPHAM

Student Count per Point



Scenario A School District Elementary WPS Students that Reside In the Scenario A School District

Bates	345
Fiske	339
Hunnewell	323
Schofield	357
Sprague	411
Upham	379

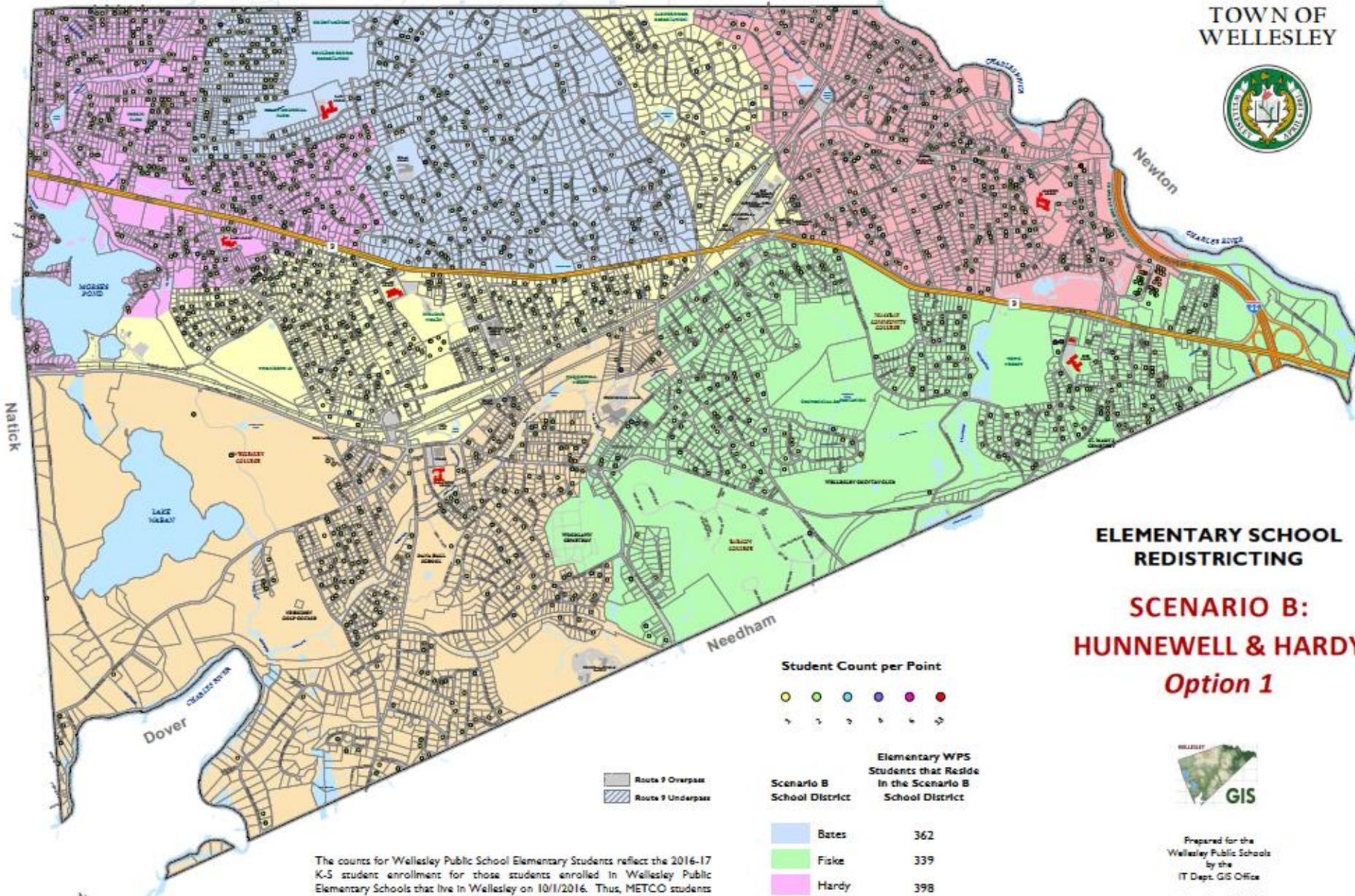
Route 9 Overpass
 Route 9 Underpass

The counts for Wellesley Public School Elementary Students reflect the 2016-17 K-5 student enrollment for those students enrolled in Wellesley Public Elementary Schools that live in Wellesley on 10/1/2016. Thus, METCO students and children of faculty that live outside Wellesley are not included in this analysis. Children that attend a different school than they are districted to are counted at their place of residence rather than the school they are attending so that we can analyze student populations as a whole in geographic areas. The student counts for these geographic outliers will be accounted for in student population totals for schools when final scenarios are considered.



Prepared for the
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 by the
 IT Dept. GIS Office
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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REDISTRICTING
SCENARIO B:
HUNNEWELL & HARDY
Option 1

Student Count per Point



Scenario B School District

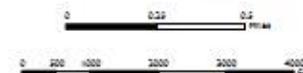
Scenario B School District	Elementary WPS Students that Reside In the Scenario B School District
Bates	362
Fiske	339
Hardy	398
Hunnewell	323
Schofield	357
Sprague	375

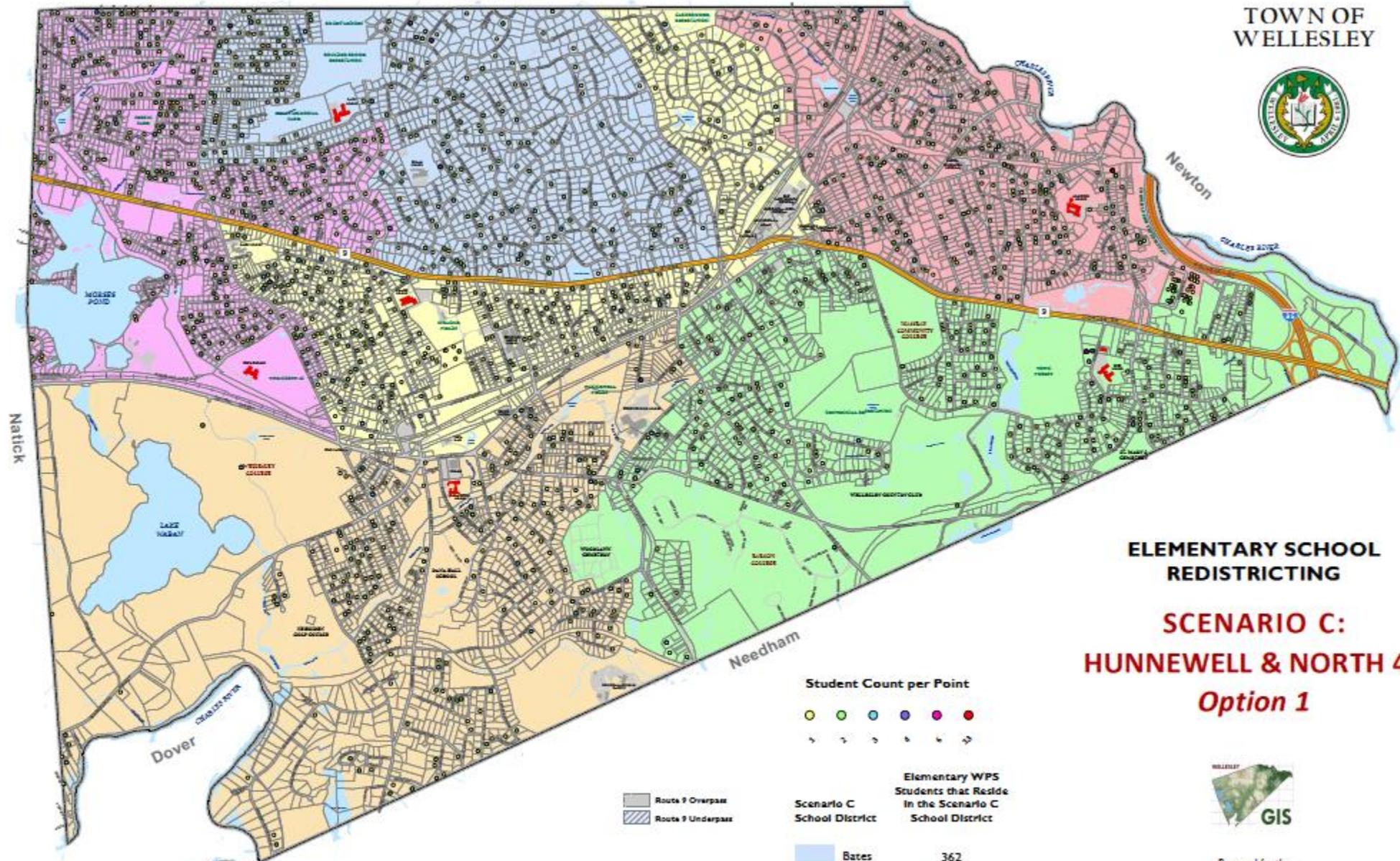
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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REDISTRICTING
SCENARIO C:
HUNNEWELL & NORTH 40
Option 1

Student Count per Point
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Scenario C School District Elementary WPS Students that Reside In the Scenario C School District

Bates	362
Fiske	339
Hunnewell	323
North 40	433
Schofield	357
Sprague	340

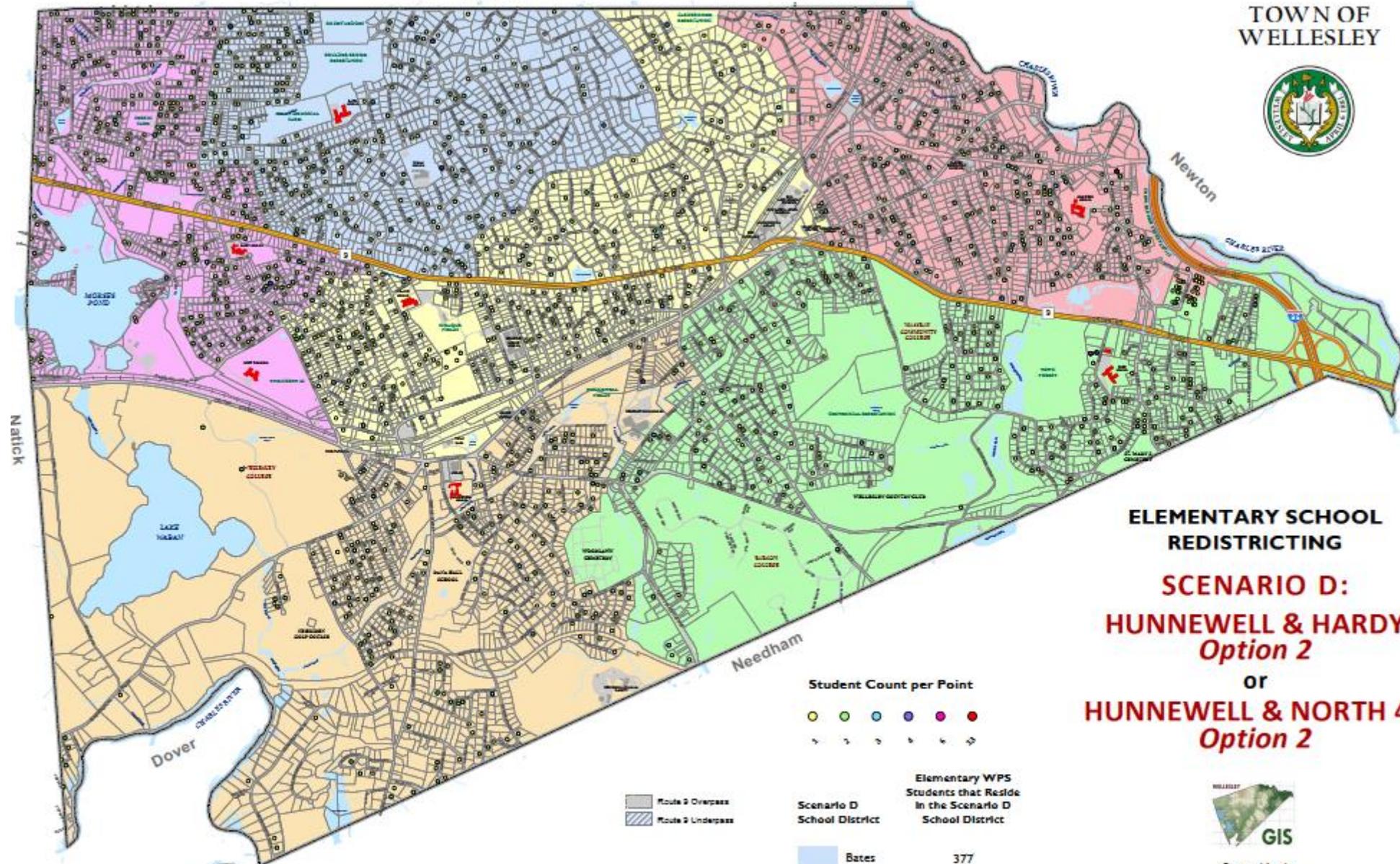


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Route 9 Overpass
 Route 9 Underpass



**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
REDISTRICTING**
**SCENARIO D:
HUNNEWELL & HARDY
Option 2**
OR
**HUNNEWELL & NORTH 40
Option 2**

Student Count per Point



Scenario D
School District

Scenario D School District	Elementary WPS Students that Reside in the Scenario D School District
Bates	377
Fiske	339
Hardy/North 40	382
Hunnewell	323
Schofield	357
Sprague	376

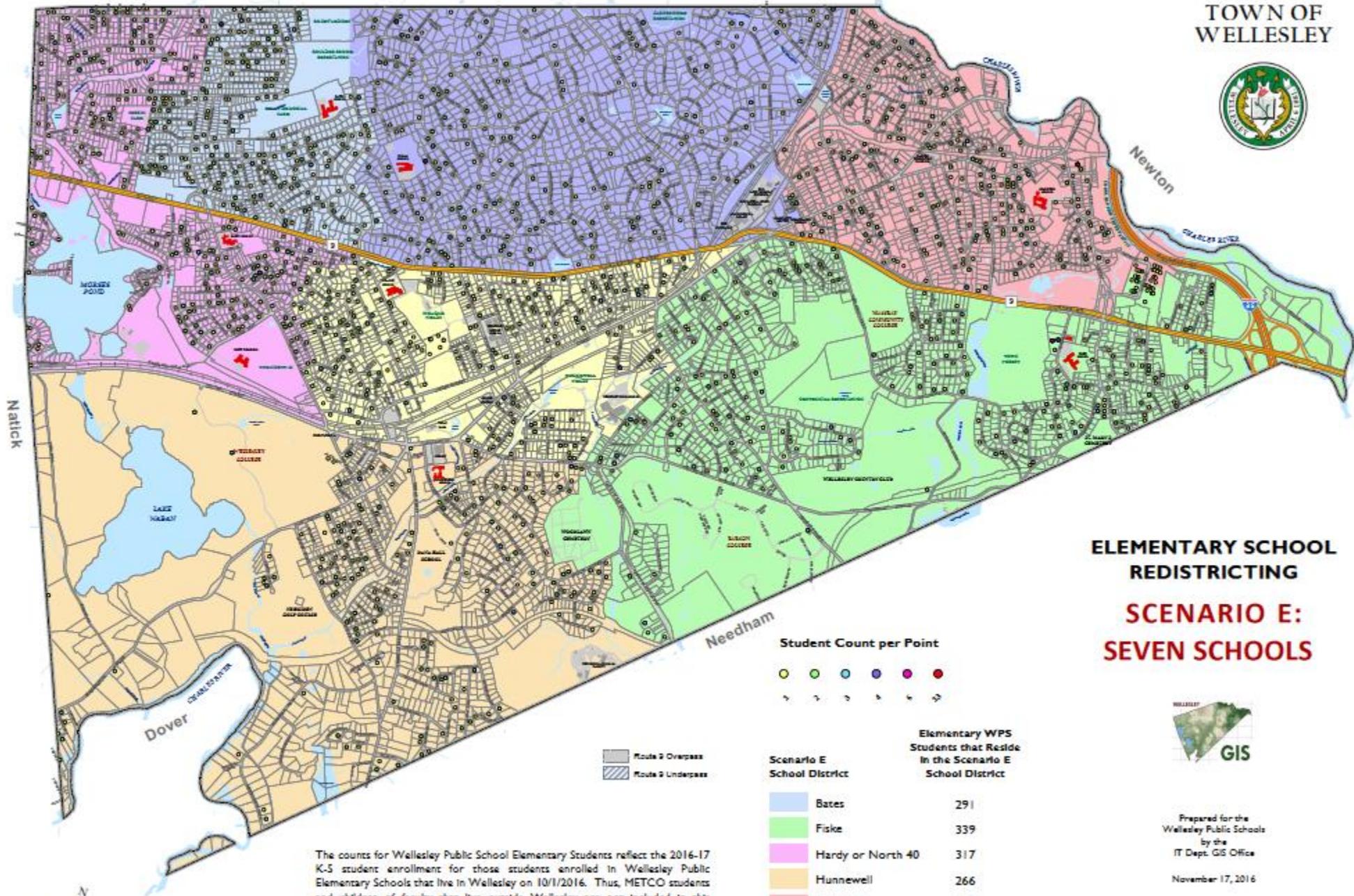


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Route 9 Overpass
Route 9 Underpass



**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
REDISTRICTING
SCENARIO E:
SEVEN SCHOOLS**

Student Count per Point

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Scenario E School District	Elementary WPS Students that Reside in the Scenario E School District
Bates	291
Fiske	339
Hardy or North 40	317
Hunnewell	266
Schofield	331
Sprague	298
Upham	312



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FACTORS	SCENARIO A (Upham and Hunnewell)	SCENARIO B/D (Hardy and Hunnewell)	SCENARIO E (Hardy, Upham, and Hunnewell)
Environmental impacts	Loss of forest and blasting of ledge	Loss of back fields; increased storm water recharge required; Removal of oak trees	Loss of forest/ledge OR loss of back fields and storm water recharge
Historic preservation	Hardy building repurposed?	Hardy torn down or architectural elements incorporated into new building?	Hardy building repurposed OR torn down/incorporated into new building?
Traffic	Increased neighborhood traffic around Upham. Specific increased flow at Pilgrim, Elmwood and Turner Road. Some decreased traffic flow on Weston	Increased traffic on Weston Road. Scenario D would require crossing Route 9. Differing traffic to Bates	Relatively static
Walkability	Fells and Generals neighborhood redistricted to Sprague	Generals neighborhood redistricted to Sprague map B	Relatively static

2016-2017 Enrollment	SCENARIO A (Upham and Hunnewell)	SCENARIO B/D (Hardy and Hunnewell)	SCENARIO E (Hardy, Upham, and Hunnewell)
Bates 379 Sprague 393 Upham 222 Hardy 308 Hunnewell 251 Fiske 335 Schofield 368 Total: 2,256	<u>Projected Population:</u> Bates 345 Sprague 411 Upham 379 Hunnewell 323 Fiske 339 Schofield 357 Total Students: 2,154	<u>Projected Population:</u> Bates 362 or 377 Sprague 375 or 376 Hardy 398 or 382 Hunnewell 323 Fiske 339 Schofield 357 Total Students: 2,154	<u>Projected Population:</u> Bates 291 Sprague 298 Upham 312 Hardy 317 Hunnewell 266 Fiske 339 Schofield 331 Total Students: 2,154
	<u>Current Population:</u> Bates 362 Sprague 428 Upham 396 Hunnewell 340 Fiske 356 Schofield 374 Total Students: 2,256	<u>Current Population:</u> Bates 379 or 394 Sprague 392 or 393 Hardy 415 or 399 Hunnewell 340 Fiske 356 Schofield 374 Total Students: 2,256	<u>Current Population:</u> Bates 306 Sprague 313 Upham 327 Hardy 332 Hunnewell 281 Fiske 354 Schofield 346 Total Students: 2,259

Public Outreach – Sample Fall 2016

Facebook	
Planning Dept. page	6 posts, 1680 impressions
Other outlets (Townsmen, Swellesley Report, PTOs etc.)	27 posts
Forum & Survey info sent to What's Up, Wellesley (closed Facebook Group)	2 postings, 1752 members
Twitter	
Tweets – Planning Dept. Page	6 tweets, 660 impressions
Other (@JMayblum, @Swellesley, etc.)	20 tweets
Forums	
Public Forum – 1	150 people signed in; est. 180 attended
Road Show Mini-Forums – 3	Est. 100 attended
Survey	
Respondents	2,071
Email blasts	
Town website - News & Announcements	7 postings, 1,382 subscribers
Town website - HHU Facilities Project	7 postings, 32 subscribers
School list-serv distribution (survey & forum info)	5 postings, 9,379 subscribers
Town Meeting Members	4 postings
PTO Central Council	4 postings
Playing Fields Task Force (for distribution to youth sports orgs.)	2 postings

Public Outreach – Sample Fall 2016

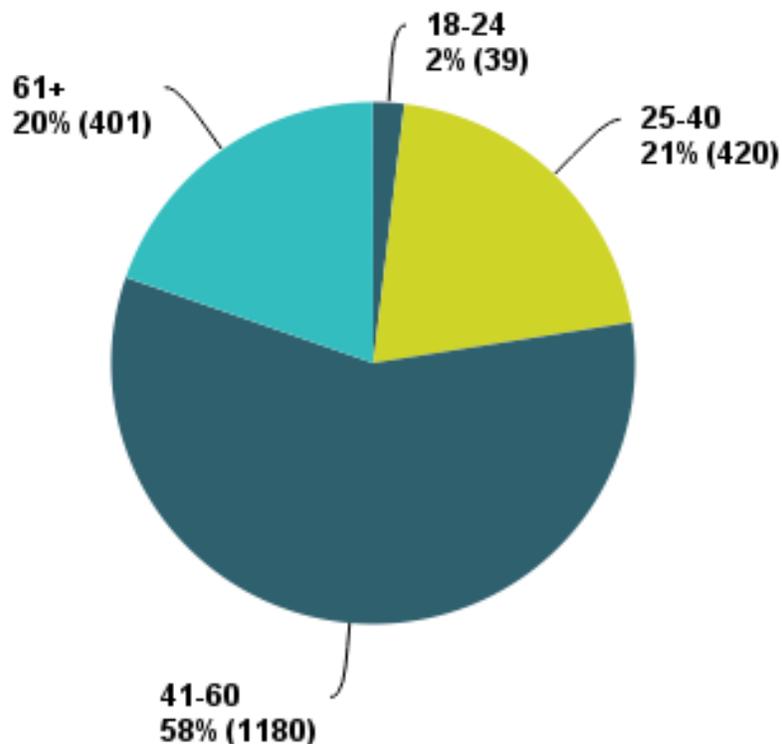
Newspaper articles & other postings	
Wellesley Townsman ¹	8 articles; print circulation 4628; readership 15,340
Wellesley WickedLocal (Townsman online)	8 articles; 17,337 visitors per month
SWellesley Report	5 postings
Wellesley Patch	2 postings
Paper Distribution (forum & survey flyers)	
Council on Aging	2 flyers
Library	2 flyers
Clerk's Office	2 flyers
Flyers distributed by MPC members	75 flyers
U.S. Mail	
Postcard distribution	10,893 pieces

HHU Public Survey – Fall 2016

- Electronic survey link was distributed through all town email lists
- A post card with the registration details was mailed to all town residents (almost 11,000 mailings)
- Hard copies of the survey were available for completion
- 2065 Respondents
- 12% of 17,116 registered voters
- 87% of respondents (1791) completed and submitted the survey

What is your age?

Answered: 2,040 Skipped: 25



US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2014

Total population	28,858
AGE	
Under 5 years	5.1%
5 to 9 years	7.6%
10 to 14 years	9.2%
15 to 19 years	13.4%
20 to 24 years	8.9%
25 to 29 years	1.7%
30 to 34 years	2.7%
35 to 39 years	4.6%
40 to 44 years	6.8%
45 to 49 years	8.1%
50 to 54 years	7.3%
55 to 59 years	6.1%
60 to 64 years	4.8%
65 to 69 years	3.9%
70 to 74 years	3.1%
75 to 79 years	2.5%
80 to 84 years	2.1%
85 years and over	2.2%

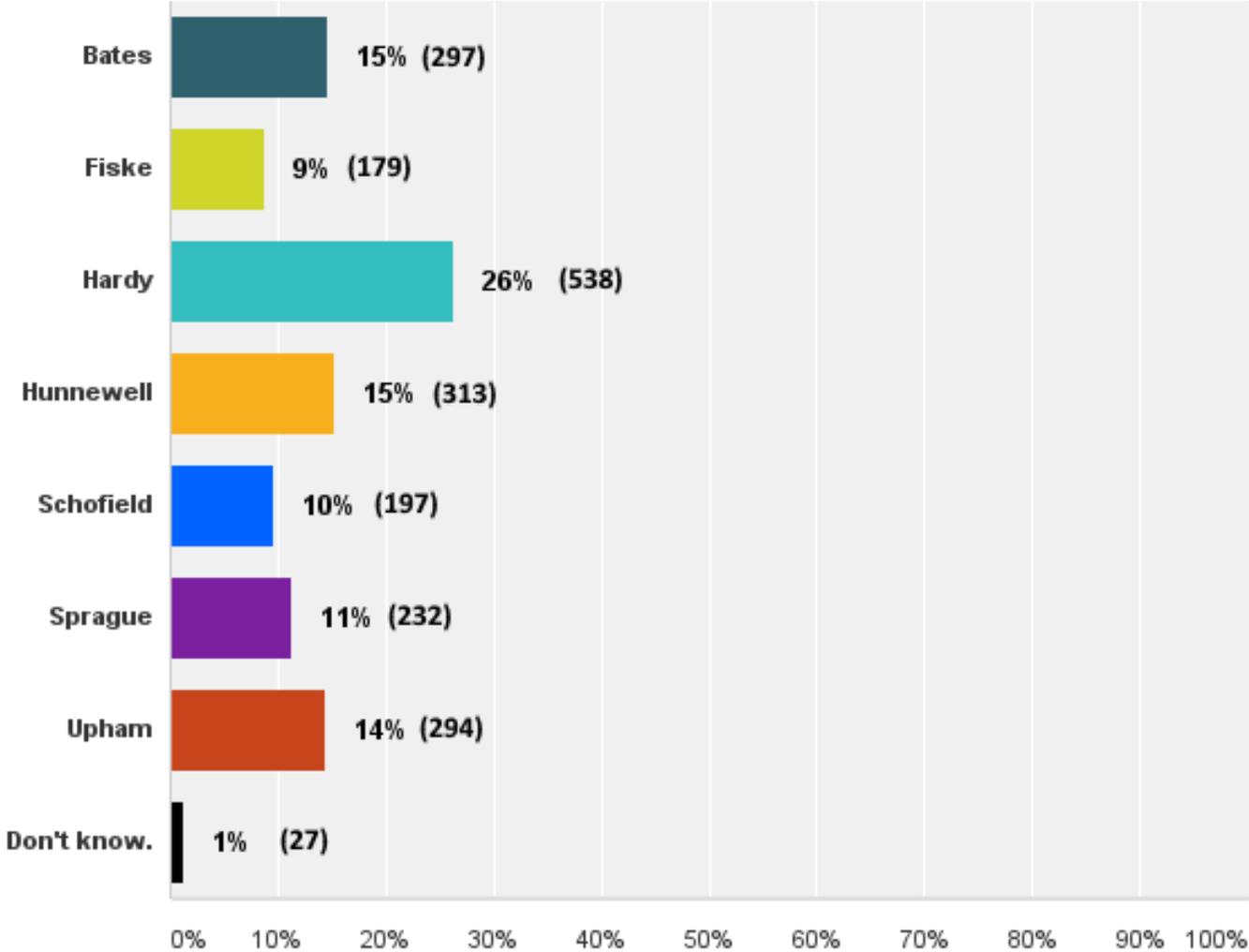
9% (25-39 years)

28.3% (40-59 years)

18.6% (60-85+ years)

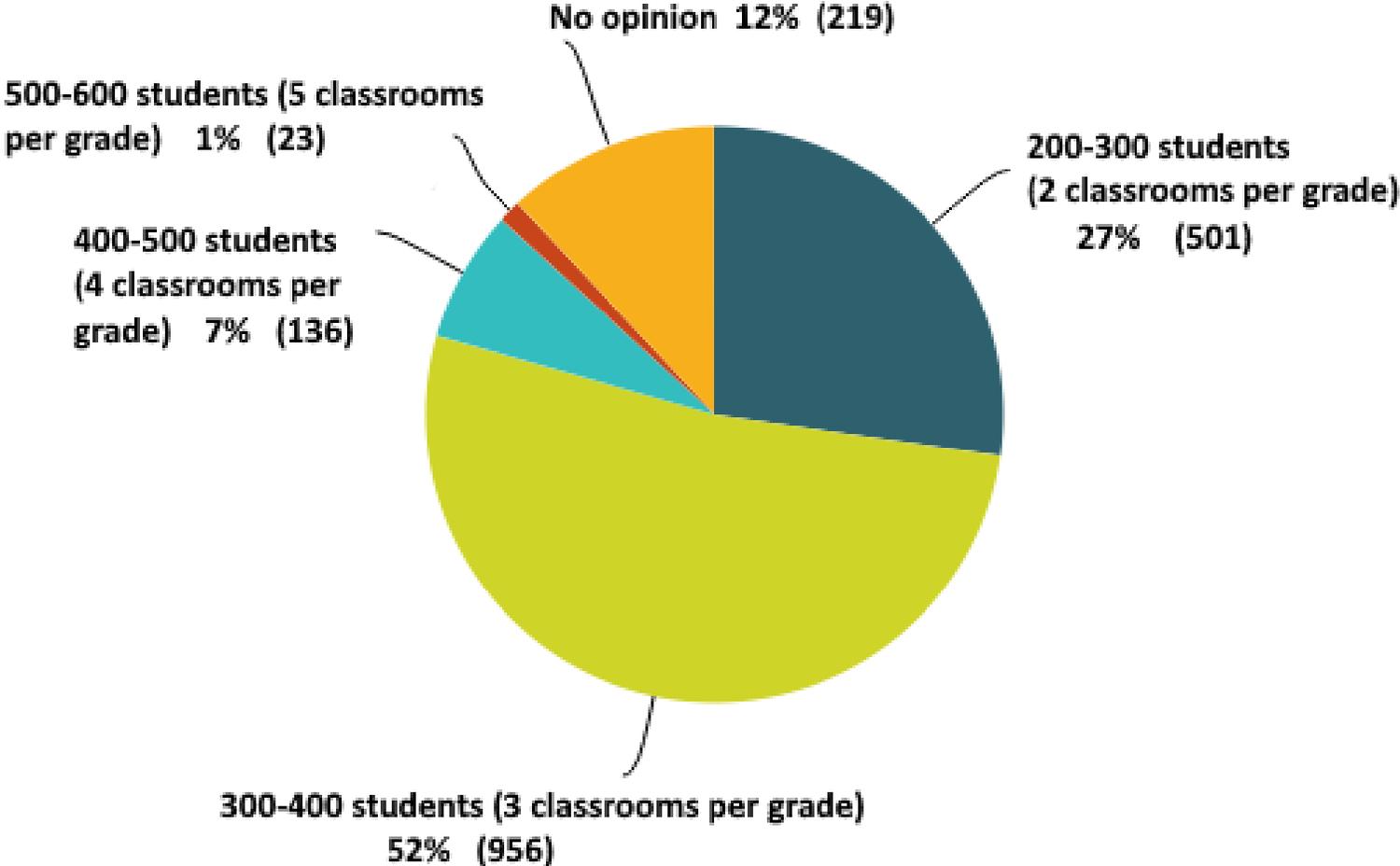
Which school district do you live in?

Answered: 2,043 Skipped: 22



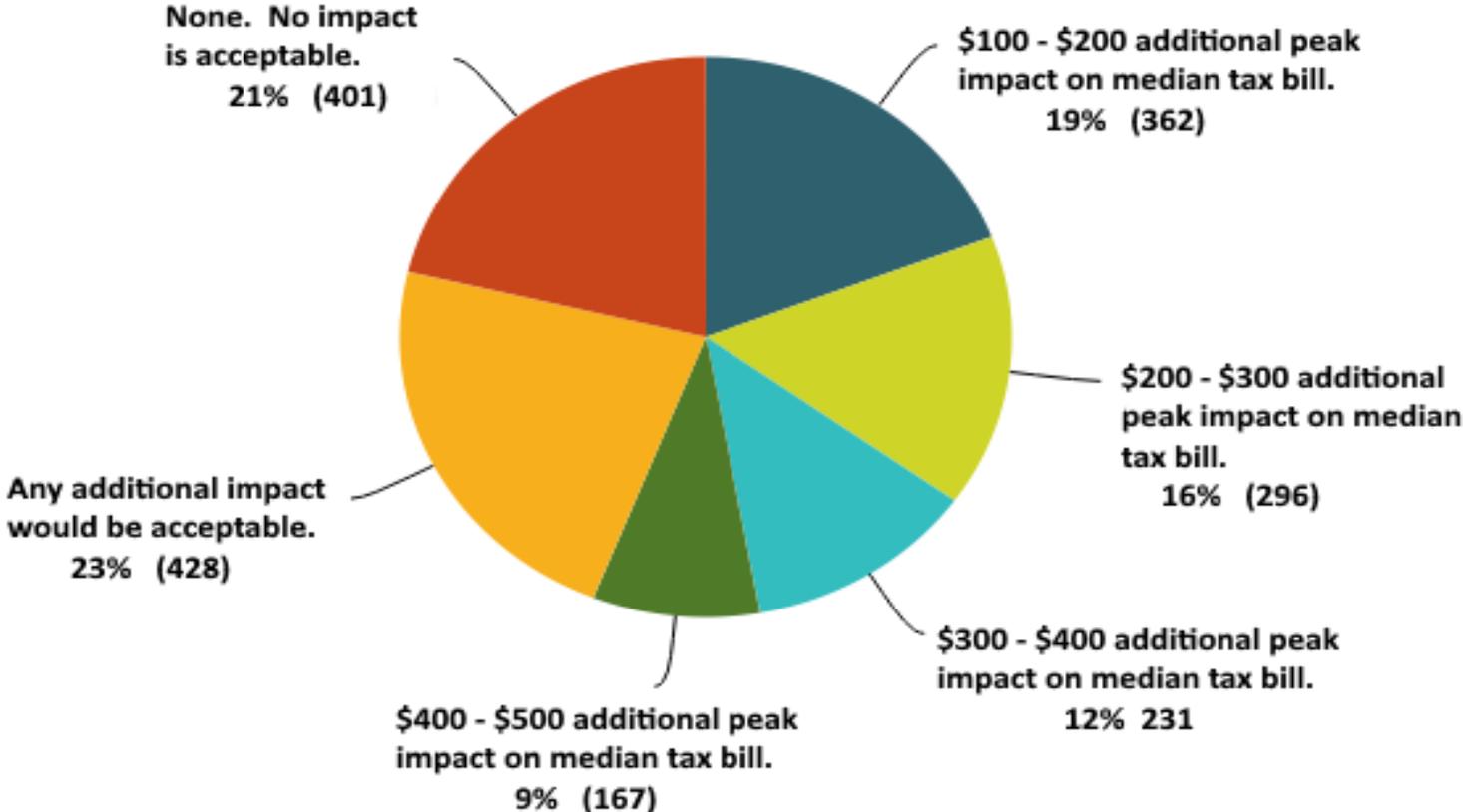
What do you consider the optimal size for an elementary school?

Answered: 1,835 Skipped: 230



In 2015, estimates to rebuild two of the three HHU schools ranged from \$91 million to \$96 million, with an estimated peak cost to the median taxpayer (\$991,000 home assessment) of about \$645-\$680 per year. Using that project cost as a starting point, what level of additional investment would be acceptable to rebuild all three schools vs. consolidating to two schools?

Answered: 1,885
Skipped: 180



General Themes in Narrative Responses

- A preponderance of responses supported retaining three smaller schools...
 - *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.*
 - *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.*

General Themes in Narrative Responses (cont.)

Many respondents were concerned with cost...

- 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!
- 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.
- 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!!!!
- 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.

Citizen Speak