

**Meeting Notes from 9th School Traffic Meeting –
Heath School
January 4th, 2017**

Traffic Concerns

- ❖ Voters should have full knowledge of traffic impact
- ❖ Initial traffic study was cursory
- ❖ Existing traffic makes it very difficult to access and exit homes currently
- ❖ Please consider the other developments that are under consideration
- ❖ Need to expand traffic study and include Putterham
- ❖ Sidewalks are inadequate or non-existent
- ❖ Traffic may be unsolvable and we're trying to show / imagine it's solvable
- ❖ Adding to an already untenable intersection
- ❖ Parameters of traffic study are not nearly enough, need to go into Newton
- ❖ Traffic calming has been inadequate
- ❖ Need to look at traffic flows on the entirety of Woodland and speed when considering making it a two way
- ❖ Safety concerns related to streets, speed and crossing
- ❖ Do Not make Woodland a two way
- ❖ Should have had a complete traffic study prior to selecting the site
- ❖ Families will not only pick up and drop off in designated parking and queueing area
- ❖ Take into account the impact on side streets
- ❖ Take into consideration the time wasted as people wait in traffic
- ❖ Expand scope of study ~ Wegman's, Florence, Woodland (between Hammond Pond Parkway & Hammond Street)
- ❖ Don't consider making Woodland two ways
- ❖ Need to have an independent consultant do the traffic study
- ❖ How many busses, how many cars, bikes, trucks, walkers?
- ❖ Understand commuting times for busses going the longest distances
- ❖ Heath Street is backed up in morning and early afternoon
- ❖ Speed on side streets is already too high and will get worse
- ❖ Traffic pressure ~ impact that results in not getting out of driveways, unsafe crossings and impact on quality of life
- ❖ Light at Woodland and Hammond
- ❖ Be transparent about when studies are done (what dates)
- ❖ Make the area walkable and bike able
- ❖ Study Hammond & Middlesex intersection
- ❖ Study cut-through and also walking, biking, and all transportation modes

- ❖ Where is transportation entering and exiting the property
- ❖ Include the 6:00 pm extended day dismissal
- ❖ Study Heath and Woodland & from Pine Manor to Baldwin
- ❖ Cost of improvements within 2000 feet
- ❖ Encourage biking and walking to improve neighborhood and reduce traffic
- ❖ The traffic on Heath is already impossible. It frequently takes 2 or 3 cycles of the light at Hammond to make a turn. Clearly the school proposed will have a major impact on traffic. How can this possibly be the best place for little kids, carpools, busses, ~ or those of us who live in the neighborhood?
- ❖ Request to always have a traffic person from the town attend Baldwin meetings and report on status of 40B project proposed for the corner of Harvard Street & Boylston Street. Thank you.
- ❖ The two lights are already rated “F” by traffic engineers. The initial report said that children would likely not get to school on time. How is this the best option?
- ❖ Traffic impact in an already terribly congested area especially around school opening and any pm sessions. Bussing – Where will students come from? What geography is producing the need for 9th school?
- ❖ The Heath / Hammond and a / Hammond intersections are extraordinarily congested already. Adding load and live parking does not seem feasible. This project will choke the Route 9 commute. The Baldwin site was much closer to the population that will be served! Why are we paying to bus kids straight into a traffic jam?
- ❖ Walkability and bike ability from Middlesex Road neighborhood is very important to keep our neighborhood pleasant and keep the number of cars going to the new school to a minimum. Please consider this at Route 9 crossings. Thank you!
Hannah Parker – 151 Middlesex
- ❖ Believe the study hours should go past 5:00 pm. Children get picked up later than 5:00. Events occur in the evening. A school is a town asset that is used beyond school hours – it should be. I drive Heath Street from beginning to end 5 days / week. Doesn’t take much to stop it up. The intersection at Hammond is AWFUL now. What to do about that?
- ❖ Has any consideration been given to future development of Pine Manor College site given its deteriorating financial condition? Would have major impact on any traffic projections.

Other Considerations

- ❖ Issue of feasibility
- ❖ Redistricting plan should come before final decisions (particularly traffic decisions)

- ❖ Concerns for environmental impact related to cars idling
- ❖ Question about community input related to decision making
- ❖ Redefining school boundaries should not be set close to existing schools
- ❖ Changes in the character of the neighborhood
- ❖ Minimize impact of the oak trees
- ❖ It's a "done deal"
- ❖ Need to go back to the drawing board ~ Baker was a better choice
- ❖ Will you recognize that this decision was a mistake
- ❖ Heath Street is a historical road
- ❖ Consider additions to existing schools
- ❖ There are no acceptable solutions in Brookline for a school of this magnitude
- ❖ Walkable schools are essential
- ❖ Consider that the project is unfeasible
- ❖ Cost of additional crossing guards
- ❖ A rooftop playground had been suggested for the Stop & Shop possible site. Why has a rooftop playground not been considered for the Baker School site? Lack of playground space does not appear to be a valid argument against Baker School.
- ❖ Eliot Street = Elliot Street
- ❖ I am very concerned that the notice for this meeting was woefully inadequate. Why not be more thorough in notices for such an important meeting?

Safety Concerns

- ❖ Safety FIRST priority ~ Count the residential projects around town and determine where the children come from and put school(s) in those neighborhoods and let them walk safely. What fool on your committee thought it was a good idea to have kids cross Route 9 to go to the "T"? They should be dismissed or fired.
- ❖ Are the boards prepared to reconsider the decision if information comes forward related to safety of the children