

**9<sup>th</sup> School Building Meeting – January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Summary of Input from Public Comment**

- Urging the feasibility study to allow for moving away from this decision if the data shows the site is not feasible or not safe.
- Traffic study should be open and should share data with public and privately hired traffic engineer.
- We have been working on this for long enough and it is time to move forward.
- Baldwin is a reasonable site.
- It is not fair to question the integrity of hard working staff and elected officials.
- Found comments and tone objectionable at the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Responses by consultant and officials were paternalistic and incomplete.
- Will there be a parking structure on the site?
- Our schools are already overcrowded. The result of saying no would force us to spend too much time going back again.
- Put a small school at Baldwin with administrative offices (more public).
- Put a large school at maintenance depot.
- Redistricting should be created prior to going further.
- Explain decision to go without state reimbursement.
- Explain conservation and preservation measures and threat to historic building.
- Concern about unsafe access to site by pedestrians and cars.
- Proactively address concerns in addition to getting input.
- Consider the positive, neighborhood, and help the Building Committee and JCA improve the project.
- Neighborhood was not a part of the decision and the decision should not be made in a back room.
- There were pros and cons for all sites. There were negative comments made about all sites.
- People who supported or disagreed with each site had a chance to speak and provide input.
- Delay would be detrimental to the children of our town.
- Baldwin traffic considerations were considered as very disadvantageous during the site selection study.
- Consider the carbon footprint of the project.
- Do not want to diminish green space.
- Please don't accuse elected officials. It is a serious legal accusation and should not be made without evidence.

- Decision was a subjective decision, because that's what these types of decisions have to be.
- Time for community to move forward with building the 9<sup>th</sup> school.
- The selection process was open, fair and public.
- If we are going to maintain our schools' excellence, we need to build a new school.
- Baldwin was the best site of the three. People worked to come up with the best compromise.
- Let's, as citizens, demonstrate what a civil, productive process can be to solve difficult public problems together.
- Reality of living near a school typically doesn't match the perception and anxiety.
- Traffic is a problem for 20 minutes in the morning, and 20 minutes in the afternoon.
- Concern about a school near intersections which are level "F" and level "E".
- Coordination of traffic consideration with new and planned developments.
- Will we coordinate the school operation with the schools around Baldwin?
- Why are we not going for state partnership?
- Schools in Brookline (North) are closely located.
- School in North Brookline would have little or no open space and putting child's health at risk.
- The process was above board and open.
- Objections don't nullify a decision that was open and well considered.
- Children of Brookline needed this school five years ago.
- Please make it a green building.
- It was not an open or fair process and should be redone.
- Let's stop this process in its tracks and put this school at Baker.
- School traffic is predictable.
- We need a school where the rooms are used for their designed purpose.
- Schools are not 100% walkable in Brookline.
- Class size affects our children's education.
- Hammond and Heath is a very dangerous intersection and you can't do anything with it.
- You have to think of the people who live there.
- There are no perfect solutions.
- Traffic is difficult everywhere.
- We are building this school for families and children who follow us.
- Not enough space in the schools. Lunches are too early and go too late. Schools don't have the space to bring families of students together.
- Every spot in Brookline has a problem with traffic and parking.
- Don't trust those traffic guys.
- We need to work together to find the best solution and work together openly.
- Good and open process that resulted in a difficult decision.
- Excited about plans showed tonight considering the light and using the landscape.

- Important to come together to build a terrific school.
- Important to fine tune the Baldwin school with neighbors.
- Thank you for the civility shown tonight.
- More kids can benefit from the beauty of Soule site.
- Parents will make it work even with traffic stress.
- Gas leak that recurs on Hammond that National Grid works on 6 months per year.
- Get a space planner into the schools to better utilize the existing space.
- It is not safe at Heath and on Hammond and people won't be riding bicycles.
- It's not just 20 minutes. Its 2 hours in the morning and evening.
- Residents can't even get in or get out of their driveways.
- Cars are moving too fast on Hammond and something must be done about it. It is very dangerous already.
- Buy Paul Furman's estate and make it a resource for the town. Do something historic. Smart people change course.
- It will take a lot of work and a lot of conversations to fix the challenges people have voiced.
- At Devotion, neighbors are working with the school to make advantages for the community and make it a community area.
- No matter which site was picked there was going to be increased bussing.
- Consider electric busses.
- Building a school at Baldwin will bring more families into the area.
- Consider alternatives to make the traffic better in area.
- Tone tonight has been reassuring because it is more civil.
- Good to have green issues and issues related to children raised tonight.
- Brookline is experiencing growth through many different avenues.
- If there is a better solution, don't just continue to stick blindly with Baldwin.
- Deal with zoning that is allowing too much growth and rampant building.
- Thank you for letting citizens speak.
- Best decision is to go forward with Baldwin and make it a great school and community center.
- If Baldwin is feasible, then we need to keep going forward even if it isn't perfect.
- With such great need we can't take longer than we already have.
- Bring the knowledge of the neighbors to improve the neighborhood.
- Let's keep principles of good environments for learning; light, green space, small classes, big classrooms.

## Written Comments Collected During Meeting

- I support the Baldwin School location. This is the best for the students and Brookline in general. A “mega-school” at Baker is against the policies we have been supporting for our schools. ~ Matthew Soares, 61 Wolcott Road, Brookline.
- I am a parent at Heath and “no thank you” to Baldwin!
- Traffic, bussing, no community school. Redistricting sounds like a great solution. Do the feasibility study and be honest.
- A Craftsland Road neighbor who could not attend tonight’s meeting asked to add a comment. She has a five year old child who would likely attend the 9<sup>th</sup> school. She is concerned that the path she would take to walk is not safe. There are no continuous sidewalks and in some areas, no separation between pedestrians and cars. Also, there would need to be a crossing guard at Hammond Pond Parkway and Heath as well as Hammond and Heath. ~ Janice Kahn TMM15
- What so many people don’t understand is that if we build a school in North Brookline it will also require busing. We’ll just be busing children from South Brookline to North Brookline.
- We are in a crisis for our children. Anyone opposing this school plan needs to be a part of coming up with a new plan.
- Walkable schools are paramount. There are far too few students within walking distance of the proposed site at Baldwin. Traffic is already bad and this is a terrible location.
- Heath Street and Woodland Road are major pass-through routes for commuters avoiding Route 9. The high speed traffic and congestion at Hammond Rd. / Heath intersection would make the proposed school dangerous and further increase congestion.
- There was virtually no notice for the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- All households in affected (Heath, Runkle, Baker) precincts should get a mailed letter detailing information and when next meetings will be held. Information is much too haphazard.
- Aside from the concerns about creating the first non-walkable school in town, and the traffic concerns, I’d like to say again that the talk about redistricting homes that are one block from other schools (namely Runkle, Heath) to Baldwin is outrageous especially when families bought homes in these locations so they would be walkable. I don’t care if we are near the “D” line!
- Traffic, bussing, redistricting, no community school. This can’t be the answer!!!
- This is the most arrogant decision this town has ever made and it has been done so without due process. A disgrace.
- As the attorney said clearly this morning, this is the cart before the horse without having a comprehensive traffic study / plan.

- You're doing the opposite of Wellesley schools by putting kids in harm's way of Route 9 and traffic jams. They are closing a school near Route 9 and expanding a school away from the dangers of Route 9!
- I would happily have my taxes increased to build new access roads for Baldwin School coming from Heath and Woodland.
- Please follow the facts and keep the children (and adults) safe. Find a place for the 9<sup>th</sup> school which can support safe traffic in and out. Thank you.