

BAKER SCHOOL LISTENING SESSION NOTES
JANUARY 17, 2018

- Not enough space at Baker currently, so cramming another school there wouldn't work
- Safety concerns w/expansion at Baker with drop-off
- Concerns about traffic study: where the counts were made and when they were made
- Need to address the educational impact of 1200 – 1400 students on a single campus
- Loss of outdoor space and activity
- Big difference between theoretical traffic studies and real traffic happening at the school – doubt that a study will capture this
- Explore alternative transportation approaches if you expand at Baker
- Limited access routes make getting to Baker difficult
- Should do a survey of use, interest and how people get to schools
- Any renovation needs to ensure there is equity between new and existing sections of Baker
- Baker as THE solution for all of South Brookline doesn't make sense – it would result in too much density at one site
- Need to look at other sites in South Brookline
- Baker will be in dire straits because there are no other schools near us like they have in North Brookline
- Need space for a playground. Where is the playground?
- How will the construction affect school during construction phase?
- Tennis courts are used by students for many purposes – would be a shame to see them go

- Concern that a 1,000 student school would negatively impact the learning and emotional well-being
- Consider Hancock Village as an eminent domain taking
- Need to try to figure out land swaps for open space
- What will be the criteria against which the different options will be measured?
- Need to be clear whether “Westfield” pertains to Baker
- Be sure to look at and consider a program for students with significant special needs
- Multi-site solution can take us back to 2013 “Expand in Place” and build two schools that are very expensive
- A single site solution is the best
- A school is a community and kids need that community to learn
- Adding one site solution at Baker will increase busses. Doesn’t seem like Baker will help North Brookline overcrowding
- Safety concerns with so many students on one site
- Schools must be walkable
- Need to consider the range of learning needs and how to make students feel safe in such a large school
- Hoar Sanctuary – consider the impact on this sanctuary
- Could consider a lower & upper Baker if it means we could keep the community together
- Traffic study needs multiple data points
- All the schools need to be enlarged because people want to go to school in their community
- Don’t go for a single site