

Appendix B

September Community Survey

Overall Results

A total of 1,555 residents completed the community survey.

Town	# of Surveys	% of Total
Antrim	115	7%
Bennington	104	7%
Dublin	113	7%
Francestown	194	13%
Greenfield	149	10%
Hancock	243	16%
Peterborough	397	26%
Sharon	60	4%
Temple	160	10%
Other	17	1%
Skipped	3	
	1,555	

How long have you lived in your current town?

	Responses
0-5 Years	20%
6-10 Years	18%
11-15 Years	12%
16-20 Years	10%
21+ Years	40%

What is your gender?

	Responses
Male	28%
Female	64%
Other	0%
Prefer Not To Say	8%

What is your age category?

Age Category	Responses
18-30	4%
31-40	18%
41-50	20%
51-60	19%
61+	39%

Other Demographics

Demographic	# of Respondents
Have school-age children	620
Have children enrolled in a ConVal schools	483
Has a child with an IEP attending ConVal	158
Current employee of ConVal School District	138

Asked of All Survey Respondents

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
If ConVal student enrollment continues to decline, we should look at options for reducing the number of schools.	36%	23%	20%	11%	11%
Students in really small classes (less than 10 students) are more likely to learn than students in classes with 20-25 students.	33%	32%	14%	16%	5%
Other than perhaps a shorter bus ride, there is little student benefit to having an elementary school in a town.	11%	15%	10%	29%	35%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the elementary schools.	32%	40%	17%	9%	3%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the middle schools.	33%	42%	16%	7%	2%
One of the major reasons my family moved to this town is because there is an elementary school in it.	22%	21%	14%	23%	21%
Property values in this town are higher because there is an elementary school located in it.	17%	22%	31%	19%	11%
If ConVal can deliver the same academic rigor, I would prefer the district do that at a reduced cost to taxpayers.	34%	32%	19%	10%	5%
The community understands the finances of the ConVal school district.	4%	16%	24%	39%	17%
It would be fine if 5th grade students were kept in each ConVal elementary school, instead of going to a middle school.	33%	40%	13%	8%	5%
A ConVal school with grades 7-12 under one roof would offer middle school students more positive benefits than negative impacts.	8%	18%	27%	28%	19%
A ConVal student should get the same curriculum and services, regardless of which town the student lives in.	55%	37%	4%	3%	1%
If research shows that multi-age classrooms (for example, students in grades 1 and 2 together) are good for student learning, then it would be okay for ConVal to implement them.	22%	42%	15%	12%	10%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal academically.	15%	21%	55%	7%	2%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	19%	25%	49%	6%	2%
The two current ConVal middle schools are not equal academically.	12%	16%	59%	10%	3%

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The two current ConVal middle schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	13%	16%	60%	10%	2%
If the research shows that a later start time for ConVal high school would benefit those students, then it would be good for ConVal to do that.	34%	40%	15%	7%	4%
The district's current school configuration, with low-enrollment elementary schools, is not the best use of financial resources.	32%	24%	20%	15%	8%
One of the best ways to ensure ConVal has great teachers is to offer salaries that are competitive regionally.	53%	37%	5%	4%	2%
I worry about how I will pay my tax bill each year.	16%	28%	12%	32%	11%
Our current property tax rates likely deter families from moving here.	25%	30%	16%	23%	6%
Our town lacks adequate space for community events or meetings.	7%	13%	13%	50%	17%

As long as the cost per student is not more than ___ different between the elementary schools, we should keep all the current ConVal elementary schools operational.

Answer Choices	Responses
\$0	34%
\$1,500	22%
\$3,000	11%
\$4,500	7%
Other	26%

Once a ConVal elementary school has less than _____ students, we should consider closing it.

Answer Choices	Responses
25	19%
50	29%
75	12%
100	11%
We should never close a local school.	29%

Overall Results by Town

How long have you lived in your current town?	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Fracestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple
0-5 Years	16%	12%	22%	23%	26%	20%	20%	29%	11%
6-10 Years	22%	20%	23%	16%	16%	16%	19%	16%	19%
11-15 Years	8%	13%	6%	10%	15%	14%	12%	12%	10%
16-20 Years	9%	7%	8%	13%	10%	13%	9%	7%	12%
21+ Years	45%	49%	40%	37%	32%	37%	40%	36%	48%

What is your gender?	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Fracestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple
Male	17%	23%	25%	31%	26%	34%	28%	34%	25%
Female	71%	72%	63%	58%	67%	58%	68%	59%	66%
Other	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Prefer Not To Say	12%	5%	9%	11%	7%	8%	4%	7%	9%

What is your age category?	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Fracestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple
18-30	4%	9%	2%	4%	9%	1%	4%	2%	1%
31-40	28%	21%	20%	22%	24%	14%	18%	11%	12%
41-50	18%	27%	24%	22%	25%	12%	19%	21%	19%
51-60	14%	19%	15%	12%	17%	19%	21%	21%	26%
61+	37%	25%	39%	41%	25%	54%	38%	46%	41%

Other Demographics	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Francestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple
Have school-age children	59	57	51	89	72	79	143	22	42
Have children enrolled in a ConVal schools	46	49	43	70	54	54	119	14	31
Has a child with an IEP attending ConVal	22	19	17	16	20	17	31	1	14
Current employee of ConVal School District	17	18	11	6	7	14	44	0	10

Asked of All Survey Respondents

	% Strongly Agree + % Agree								
	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Fracestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple
If ConVal student enrollment continues to decline, we should look at options for reducing the number of schools.	52%	56%	39%	38%	70%	55%	78%	76%	39%
Students in really small classes (less than 10 students) are more likely to learn than students in classes with 20-25 students.	65%	71%	72%	72%	66%	71%	50%	61%	75%
Other than perhaps a shorter bus ride, there is little student benefit to having an elementary school in a town.	18%	26%	13%	23%	34%	20%	40%	33%	14%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the elementary schools.	81%	72%	68%	66%	68%	76%	74%	67%	64%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the middle schools.	83%	77%	72%	73%	71%	80%	77%	70%	69%
One of the major reasons my family moved to this town is because there is an elementary school in it.	48%	47%	64%	51%	34%	40%	30%	N/A	60%
Property values in this town are higher because there is an elementary school located in it.	35%	41%	49%	46%	35%	42%	34%	N/A	49%
If ConVal can deliver the same academic rigor, I would prefer the district do that at a reduced cost to taxpayers.	57%	71%	55%	51%	78%	64%	78%	75%	54%
The community understands the finances of the ConVal school district.	19%	22%	27%	21%	19%	17%	16%	19%	28%
It would be fine if 5 th grade students were kept in each ConVal elementary school, instead of going to a middle school.	64%	69%	79%	77%	73%	73%	72%	59%	81%
A ConVal school with grades 7-12 under 1 roof would offer middle school students more positive benefits than negative impacts.	17%	21%	25%	25%	28%	35%	25%	23%	25%
A ConVal student should get the same curriculum and services, regardless of which town the student lives in.	93%	95%	91%	88%	95%	93%	90%	93%	92%

	% Strongly Agree + % Agree								
	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Fracestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple
If research shows that multi-age classrooms (for example, students in grades 1 and 2 together) are good for student learning, then it would be okay for ConVal to implement them.	60%	54%	67%	72%	57%	63%	62%	58%	80%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal academically.	48%	52%	27%	40%	39%	30%	41%	10%	20%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	54%	65%	39%	45%	41%	42%	47%	27%	27%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal academically.	38%	49%	22%	35%	29%	25%	26%	8%	14%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	38%	51%	25%	34%	28%	29%	25%	14%	15%
If the research shows that a later start time for ConVal high school would benefit those students, then it would be good for ConVal to do that.	69%	68%	71%	77%	69%	79%	75%	72%	74%
The district's current school configuration, with low-enrollment elementary schools, is not the best use of financial resources.	50%	62%	41%	36%	66%	51%	78%	70%	33%
One of the best ways to ensure ConVal has great teachers is to offer salaries that are competitive regionally.	88%	86%	94%	89%	84%	90%	93%	90%	87%
I worry about how I will pay my tax bill each year.	32%	50%	29%	38%	59%	34%	55%	52%	38%
Our current property tax rates likely deter families from moving here.	32%	58%	50%	37%	74%	48%	73%	59%	44%
Our town lacks adequate space for community events or meetings.	25%	44%	24%	18%	19%	12%	17%	12%	24%

As long as the cost per student is not more than _____ different between the elementary schools, we should keep all the current ConVal elementary schools operational.

	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Fracestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple
\$0	30%	38%	24%	27%	41%	34%	42%	42%	25%
\$1,500	25%	25%	21%	15%	25%	22%	25%	26%	16%
\$3,000	13%	12%	10%	16%	8%	8%	8%	9%	17%
\$4,500	7%	5%	15%	8%	5%	10%	2%	0%	11%
Other	26%	19%	31%	34%	22%	26%	24%	23%	31%

Once a ConVal elementary school has less than _____ students, we should consider closing it.

	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Fracestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple
25	20%	24%	23%	19%	20%	23%	12%	30%	24%
50	31%	33%	24%	19%	36%	31%	35%	28%	10%
75	13%	9%	4%	8%	13%	9%	20%	14%	4%
100	4%	10%	5%	6%	10%	8%	20%	19%	6%
We should never close a local school.	31%	24%	45%	48%	21%	29%	12%	9%	56%

Asked of ConVal Parents

In which schools do you currently have children?

School	# of Respondents
Antrim ES	38
Bennington/Pierce ES	38
Dublin ES	41
Fracestown ES	43
Greenfield ES	54
Hancock ES	46
Peterborough ES	87
Temple ES	31
Great Brook MS	96
South Meadow MS	110
ConVal HS	182

	% Strongly Agree + % Agree								
	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Fracestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple
n =	46	48	43	67	52	53	114	13	30
All of my children had a great experience in their elementary school.	68%	86%	90%	85%	92%	80%	80%		86%
One or more of my children was sometimes the "odd one out" in elementary school.	40%	27%	23%	27%	29%	27%	30%		17%
All of my children formed friendships in their elementary school that lasted through high school.	54%	57%	74%	78%	60%	74%	50%		87%
Academically, one or more of my children was not well-prepared for middle school.	26%	22%	8%	20%	22%	9%	21%		19%
Our middle school does not offer some academic or extracurricular opportunities I would like my children to have.	49%	56%	29%	49%	29%	42%	40%		55%
Our high school does not offer some academic or extracurricular opportunities I would like my children to have.	44%	34%	19%	30%	29%	46%	51%		42%
School Board members from my community understand the educational needs of students.	37%	23%	12%	41%	36%	38%	32%		40%

	% Strongly Agree + % Agree								
	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Fracestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple
I trust our school board members to make the best decisions for all students.	22%	25%	10%	23%	39%	25%	33%		40%

Note: Respondents who selected 'NA' (Not Applicable) were excluded from the percentage calculations as this response does not indicate either agreement or disagreement with the given statement.

Asked of Parents of ConVal Students with an IEP

The academic and academic support needs of my child with an IEP were fully met in their elementary school.

Answer Choices	Responses
Strongly agree	27%
Agree	29%
Undecided	9%
Disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	8%
My child with an IEP is still in elementary school	18%

The academic and academic support needs of my child with an IEP were fully met in their elementary school.	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Francestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple	Not Peterborough
n =	23	20	18	16	20	20	33	2	18	137
Strongly agree							9%			31%
Agree							39%			26%
Undecided							15%			7%
Disagree							18%			9%
Strongly disagree							12%			7%
My child with an IEP is still in elementary school							6%			20%

The social needs of my child with an IEP were fully met in their elementary school.

Answer Choices	Responses
Strongly agree	27%
Agree	32%
Undecided	10%
Disagree	6%
Strongly disagree	8%
My child with an IEP is still in elementary school	17%

The social needs of my child with an IEP were fully met in their elementary school.	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Francestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple	Not Peterborough
n =	23	20	17	16	19	19	34	2	18	134
Strongly agree							9%			32%
Agree							35%			31%
Undecided							21%			7%
Disagree							15%			4%
Strongly disagree							12%			7%
My child with an IEP is still in elementary school							9%			19%

Asked of ConVal School District Employees

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The district allocates financial resources equitably and fairly between schools.	1%	29%	33%	24%	13%
School staffing is equitable between schools.	1%	16%	19%	44%	20%
The middle schools are pretty much the same in terms of academic options.	2%	25%	46%	16%	11%
The middle schools are pretty much the same in terms of extracurricular options for students.	1%	28%	36%	21%	14%
ConVal should figure out other ways to save money and stop considering closing schools.	14%	14%	21%	30%	21%
The elementary schools are pretty much the same in terms of academic rigor.	4%	27%	36%	27%	7%
The students in smaller elementary schools do not get the same level of support services as those in larger elementary schools.	25%	31%	18%	20%	6%
In the current configuration, elementary teachers do not have sufficient time or opportunities for collaboration.	29%	31%	27%	10%	4%
Students in smaller schools have less opportunities for a variety of instructional environments, such as varied small groupings.	21%	41%	14%	18%	6%
Really small class sizes have negatively impacted student learning in some schools.	15%	24%	29%	19%	13%
I trust the research that indicates some class sizes are simply too small for optimal student learning.	23%	35%	22%	15%	5%
New teachers here should have more opportunities to collaborate with other teachers of the same grade or academic specialty.	42%	45%	8%	4%	1%

Results by Individual Town

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Antrim Responses n = 115					
If ConVal student enrollment continues to decline, we should look at options for reducing the number of schools.	31%	21%	29%	9%	11%
Students in really small classes (less than 10 students) are more likely to learn than students in classes with 20-25 students.	39%	26%	13%	21%	2%
Other than perhaps a shorter bus ride, there is little student benefit to having an elementary school in a town.	7%	11%	10%	29%	43%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the elementary schools.	40%	41%	10%	8%	1%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the middle schools.	40%	43%	10%	5%	1%
One of the major reasons my family moved to this town is because there is an elementary school in it.	22%	26%	18%	19%	15%
Property values in this town are higher because there is an elementary school located in it.	12%	23%	39%	17%	10%
If ConVal can deliver the same academic rigor, I would prefer the district do that at a reduced cost to taxpayers.	25%	32%	27%	11%	5%
The community understands the finances of the ConVal school district.	3%	17%	23%	44%	13%
It would be fine if 5 th grade students were kept in each ConVal elementary school, instead of going to a middle school.	28%	35%	15%	12%	9%
A ConVal school with grades 7-12 under 1 roof would offer middle school students more positive benefits than negative impacts.	5%	11%	28%	29%	27%
A ConVal student should get the same curriculum and services, regardless of which town the student lives in.	66%	27%	4%	2%	1%
If research shows that multi-age classrooms (for example, students in grades 1 and 2 together) are good for student learning, then it would be okay for ConVal to implement them.	18%	41%	11%	9%	20%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal academically.	19%	29%	42%	8%	2%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	28%	26%	39%	5%	2%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal academically.	17%	21%	42%	15%	4%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	21%	17%	48%	10%	4%
If the research shows that a later start time for ConVal high school would benefit those students, then it would be good for ConVal to do that.	29%	40%	18%	10%	3%
The district's current school configuration, with low-enrollment elementary schools, is not the best use of financial resources.	26%	24%	26%	19%	5%
One of the best ways to ensure ConVal has great teachers is to offer salaries that are competitive regionally.	52%	35%	10%	1%	2%

Antrim Responses**n = 115**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I worry about how I will pay my tax bill each year.	8%	24%	19%	41%	8%
Our current property tax rates likely deter families from moving here.	14%	18%	31%	31%	7%
Our town lacks adequate space for community events or meetings.	10%	15%	15%	50%	10%

Bennington Responses**n = 104**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
If ConVal student enrollment continues to decline, we should look at options for reducing the number of schools.	32%	24%	16%	14%	13%
Students in really small classes (less than 10 students) are more likely to learn than students in classes with 20-25 students.	39%	32%	13%	9%	8%
Other than perhaps a shorter bus ride, there is little student benefit to having an elementary school in a town.	14%	13%	6%	32%	36%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the elementary schools.	30%	42%	13%	10%	5%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the middle schools.	33%	44%	13%	8%	2%
One of the major reasons my family moved to this town is because there is an elementary school in it.	21%	26%	9%	27%	18%
Property values in this town are higher because there is an elementary school located in it.	18%	23%	30%	21%	8%
If ConVal can deliver the same academic rigor, I would prefer the district do that at a reduced cost to taxpayers.	31%	39%	18%	9%	3%
The community understands the finances of the ConVal school district.	4%	18%	24%	37%	17%
It would be fine if 5 th grade students were kept in each ConVal elementary school, instead of going to a middle school.	26%	43%	12%	14%	5%
A ConVal school with grades 7-12 under 1 roof would offer middle school students more positive benefits than negative impacts.	6%	15%	23%	35%	21%
A ConVal student should get the same curriculum and services, regardless of which town the student lives in.	66%	29%	4%	1%	0%
If research shows that multi-age classrooms (for example, students in grades 1 and 2 together) are good for student learning, then it would be okay for ConVal to implement them.	13%	41%	13%	19%	14%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal academically.	17%	35%	37%	10%	1%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	30%	35%	32%	3%	0%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal academically.	21%	27%	38%	11%	3%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	25%	26%	35%	12%	2%

Bennington Responses**n = 104**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
If the research shows that a later start time for ConVal high school would benefit those students, then it would be good for ConVal to do that.	26%	42%	13%	11%	8%
The district's current school configuration, with low-enrollment elementary schools, is not the best use of financial resources.	31%	30%	19%	12%	8%
One of the best ways to ensure ConVal has great teachers is to offer salaries that are competitive regionally.	49%	37%	6%	7%	2%
I worry about how I will pay my tax bill each year.	22%	29%	13%	34%	3%
Our current property tax rates likely deter families from moving here.	34%	24%	16%	24%	3%
Our town lacks adequate space for community events or meetings.	16%	28%	14%	37%	6%

Dublin Responses**n = 113**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
If ConVal student enrollment continues to decline, we should look at options for reducing the number of schools.	22%	17%	27%	15%	18%
Students in really small classes (less than 10 students) are more likely to learn than students in classes with 20-25 students.	42%	29%	8%	12%	8%
Other than perhaps a shorter bus ride, there is little student benefit to having an elementary school in a town.	5%	7%	5%	21%	61%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the elementary schools.	22%	46%	20%	9%	4%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the middle schools.	23%	49%	19%	7%	2%
One of the major reasons my family moved to this town is because there is an elementary school in it.	42%	22%	8%	17%	11%
Property values in this town are higher because there is an elementary school located in it.	20%	28%	20%	20%	11%
If ConVal can deliver the same academic rigor, I would prefer the district do that at a reduced cost to taxpayers.	19%	37%	21%	10%	13%
The community understands the finances of the ConVal school district.	4%	23%	22%	35%	16%
It would be fine if 5 th grade students were kept in each ConVal elementary school, instead of going to a middle school.	43%	35%	9%	8%	4%
A ConVal school with grades 7-12 under 1 roof would offer middle school students more positive benefits than negative impacts.	8%	17%	24%	23%	28%
A ConVal student should get the same curriculum and services, regardless of which town the student lives in.	48%	43%	4%	4%	0%
If research shows that multi-age classrooms (for example, students in grades 1 and 2 together) are good for student learning, then it would be okay for ConVal to implement them.	23%	44%	11%	9%	13%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal academically.	7%	20%	57%	10%	6%

Dublin Responses n = 113	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	11%	28%	48%	7%	5%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal academically.	6%	16%	63%	11%	4%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	5%	20%	62%	11%	3%
If the research shows that a later start time for ConVal high school would benefit those students, then it would be good for ConVal to do that.	31%	40%	18%	7%	4%
The district's current school configuration, with low-enrollment elementary schools, is not the best use of financial resources.	14%	26%	14%	27%	19%
One of the best ways to ensure ConVal has great teachers is to offer salaries that are competitive regionally.	49%	45%	4%	1%	1%
I worry about how I will pay my tax bill each year.	9%	20%	14%	38%	20%
Our current property tax rates likely deter families from moving here.	19%	31%	12%	28%	10%
Our town lacks adequate space for community events or meetings.	12%	12%	20%	41%	15%

Fracestown Responses n = 194	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
If ConVal student enrollment continues to decline, we should look at options for reducing the number of schools.	24%	13%	24%	13%	25%
Students in really small classes (less than 10 students) are more likely to learn than students in classes with 20-25 students.	37%	35%	12%	12%	4%
Other than perhaps a shorter bus ride, there is little student benefit to having an elementary school in a town.	13%	9%	6%	20%	52%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the elementary schools.	35%	32%	22%	7%	5%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the middle schools.	37%	36%	19%	5%	4%
One of the major reasons my family moved to this town is because there is an elementary school in it.	34%	17%	7%	22%	19%
Property values in this town are higher because there is an elementary school located in it.	26%	19%	31%	14%	9%
If ConVal can deliver the same academic rigor, I would prefer the district do that at a reduced cost to taxpayers.	30%	21%	22%	17%	10%
The community understands the finances of the ConVal school district.	6%	16%	26%	36%	17%
It would be fine if 5 th grade students were kept in each ConVal elementary school, instead of going to a middle school.	33%	44%	13%	6%	4%
A ConVal school with grades 7-12 under 1 roof would offer middle school students more positive benefits than negative impacts.	8%	17%	24%	32%	19%

Franeestown Responses**n = 194**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A ConVal student should get the same curriculum and services, regardless of which town the student lives in.	58%	30%	7%	3%	3%
If research shows that multi-age classrooms (for example, students in grades 1 and 2 together) are good for student learning, then it would be okay for ConVal to implement them.	31%	41%	12%	9%	7%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal academically.	18%	22%	50%	7%	3%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	20%	25%	48%	5%	2%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal academically.	16%	19%	54%	8%	3%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	20%	13%	56%	8%	2%
If the research shows that a later start time for ConVal high school would benefit those students, then it would be good for ConVal to do that.	33%	45%	12%	7%	4%
The district's current school configuration, with low-enrollment elementary schools, is not the best use of financial resources.	24%	12%	22%	24%	17%
One of the best ways to ensure ConVal has great teachers is to offer salaries that are competitive regionally.	52%	37%	4%	3%	4%
I worry about how I will pay my tax bill each year.	12%	26%	13%	30%	19%
Our current property tax rates likely deter families from moving here.	15%	21%	17%	32%	15%
Our town lacks adequate space for community events or meetings.	4%	14%	12%	44%	27%

Greenfield Responses**n = 149**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
If ConVal student enrollment continues to decline, we should look at options for reducing the number of schools.	39%	31%	17%	9%	4%
Students in really small classes (less than 10 students) are more likely to learn than students in classes with 20-25 students.	36%	30%	10%	19%	5%
Other than perhaps a shorter bus ride, there is little student benefit to having an elementary school in a town.	12%	21%	9%	40%	17%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the elementary schools.	27%	41%	23%	5%	3%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the middle schools.	28%	43%	22%	5%	2%
One of the major reasons my family moved to this town is because there is an elementary school in it.	14%	19%	11%	27%	28%
Property values in this town are higher because there is an elementary school located in it.	14%	21%	37%	21%	6%
If ConVal can deliver the same academic rigor, I would prefer the district do that at a reduced cost to taxpayers.	46%	32%	14%	5%	2%

Greenfield Responses n = 149	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The community understands the finances of the ConVal school district.	7%	12%	26%	38%	18%
It would be fine if 5 th grade students were kept in each ConVal elementary school, instead of going to a middle school.	31%	43%	14%	5%	7%
A ConVal school with grades 7-12 under 1 roof would offer middle school students more positive benefits than negative impacts.	10%	18%	29%	26%	17%
A ConVal student should get the same curriculum and services, regardless of which town the student lives in.	57%	38%	3%	1%	1%
If research shows that multi-age classrooms (for example, students in grades 1 and 2 together) are good for student learning, then it would be okay for ConVal to implement them.	23%	34%	18%	14%	12%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal academically.	18%	20%	55%	5%	1%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	16%	26%	53%	5%	1%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal academically.	12%	18%	64%	6%	0%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	8%	20%	66%	6%	0%
If the research shows that a later start time for ConVal high school would benefit those students, then it would be good for ConVal to do that.	32%	37%	20%	7%	4%
The district's current school configuration, with low-enrollment elementary schools, is not the best use of financial resources.	39%	27%	20%	10%	4%
One of the best ways to ensure ConVal has great teachers is to offer salaries that are competitive regionally.	41%	43%	9%	6%	1%
I worry about how I will pay my tax bill each year.	31%	28%	8%	26%	8%
Our current property tax rates likely deter families from moving here.	41%	33%	11%	11%	3%
Our town lacks adequate space for community events or meetings.	7%	13%	16%	52%	13%

Hancock Responses n = 243	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
If ConVal student enrollment continues to decline, we should look at options for reducing the number of schools.	29%	26%	23%	13%	9%
Students in really small classes (less than 10 students) are more likely to learn than students in classes with 20-25 students.	32%	40%	10%	15%	5%
Other than perhaps a shorter bus ride, there is little student benefit to having an elementary school in a town.	7%	13%	11%	32%	37%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the elementary schools.	33%	43%	11%	10%	3%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the middle schools.	35%	45%	10%	7%	4%

One of the major reasons my family moved to this town is because there is an elementary school in it.	17%	23%	18%	20%	22%
Property values in this town are higher because there is an elementary school located in it.	19%	23%	30%	18%	10%
If ConVal can deliver the same academic rigor, I would prefer the district do that at a reduced cost to taxpayers.	30%	35%	20%	13%	3%
The community understands the finances of the ConVal school district.	3%	14%	26%	38%	19%
It would be fine if 5 th grade students were kept in each ConVal elementary school, instead of going to a middle school.	27%	47%	13%	9%	5%
A ConVal school with grades 7-12 under 1 roof would offer middle school students more positive benefits than negative impacts.	9%	25%	23%	29%	13%
A ConVal student should get the same curriculum and services, regardless of which town the student lives in.	54%	39%	2%	3%	1%
If research shows that multi-age classrooms (for example, students in grades 1 and 2 together) are good for student learning, then it would be okay for ConVal to implement them.	19%	43%	18%	12%	7%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal academically.	14%	16%	63%	6%	1%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	19%	24%	51%	5%	1%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal academically.	12%	13%	58%	13%	4%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	13%	15%	61%	8%	3%
If the research shows that a later start time for ConVal high school would benefit those students, then it would be good for ConVal to do that.	35%	44%	12%	7%	2%
The district's current school configuration, with low-enrollment elementary schools, is not the best use of financial resources.	24%	28%	26%	16%	7%
One of the best ways to ensure ConVal has great teachers is to offer salaries that are competitive regionally.	54%	35%	5%	3%	2%
I worry about how I will pay my tax bill each year.	14%	20%	10%	41%	15%
Our current property tax rates likely deter families from moving here.	19%	29%	16%	31%	5%
Our town lacks adequate space for community events or meetings.	4%	8%	12%	58%	18%

Peterborough Responses n = 394	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
If ConVal student enrollment continues to decline, we should look at options for reducing the number of schools.	54%	24%	13%	6%	3%
Students in really small classes (less than 10 students) are more likely to learn than students in classes with 20-25 students.	21%	29%	20%	25%	5%
Other than perhaps a shorter bus ride, there is little student benefit to having an elementary school in a town.	15%	25%	14%	31%	15%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the elementary schools.	32%	42%	14%	10%	1%

I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the middle schools.	32%	45%	13%	10%	1%
One of the major reasons my family moved to this town is because there is an elementary school in it.	12%	18%	17%	29%	24%
Property values in this town are higher because there is an elementary school located in it.	12%	22%	34%	19%	12%
If ConVal can deliver the same academic rigor, I would prefer the district do that at a reduced cost to taxpayers.	44%	34%	12%	7%	3%
The community understands the finances of the ConVal school district.	3%	13%	21%	46%	17%
It would be fine if 5 th grade students were kept in each ConVal elementary school, instead of going to a middle school.	32%	41%	12%	10%	5%
A ConVal school with grades 7-12 under 1 roof would offer middle school students more positive benefits than negative impacts.	9%	16%	30%	28%	17%
A ConVal student should get the same curriculum and services, regardless of which town the student lives in.	50%	41%	5%	3%	2%
If research shows that multi-age classrooms (for example, students in grades 1 and 2 together) are good for student learning, then it would be okay for ConVal to implement them.	19%	43%	16%	14%	8%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal academically.	17%	24%	53%	5%	2%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	20%	27%	47%	4%	2%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal academically.	10%	16%	61%	10%	3%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	10%	15%	61%	11%	3%
If the research shows that a later start time for ConVal high school would benefit those students, then it would be good for ConVal to do that.	40%	36%	13%	6%	6%
The district's current school configuration, with low-enrollment elementary schools, is not the best use of financial resources.	50%	28%	14%	5%	3%
One of the best ways to ensure ConVal has great teachers is to offer salaries that are competitive regionally.	61%	32%	3%	3%	1%
I worry about how I will pay my tax bill each year.	20%	35%	13%	25%	7%
Our current property tax rates likely deter families from moving here.	35%	38%	12%	12%	3%
Our town lacks adequate space for community events or meetings.	6%	11%	13%	52%	18%

Sharon Responses n = 60	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
If ConVal student enrollment continues to decline, we should look at options for reducing the number of schools.	53%	24%	14%	5%	5%
Students in really small classes (less than 10 students) are more likely to learn than students in classes with 20-25 students.	22%	39%	19%	17%	3%
Other than perhaps a shorter bus ride, there is little student benefit to having an elementary school in a town.	17%	17%	22%	27%	18%



I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the elementary schools.	40%	27%	22%	12%	0%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the middle schools.	42%	28%	22%	8%	0%
One of the major reasons my family moved to this town is because there is an elementary school in it.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Property values in this town are higher because there is an elementary school located in it.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
If ConVal can deliver the same academic rigor, I would prefer the district do that at a reduced cost to taxpayers.	41%	34%	19%	7%	0%
The community understands the finances of the ConVal school district.	3%	15%	36%	34%	12%
It would be fine if 5 th grade students were kept in each ConVal elementary school, instead of going to a middle school.	37%	22%	25%	10%	5%
A ConVal school with grades 7-12 under 1 roof would offer middle school students more positive benefits than negative impacts.	7%	17%	38%	25%	13%
A ConVal student should get the same curriculum and services, regardless of which town the student lives in.	48%	45%	5%	2%	0%
If research shows that multi-age classrooms (for example, students in grades 1 and 2 together) are good for student learning, then it would be okay for ConVal to implement them.	20%	38%	20%	10%	12%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal academically.	3%	7%	85%	5%	0%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	10%	17%	65%	8%	0%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal academically.	3%	5%	77%	13%	2%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	5%	8%	71%	10%	5%
If the research shows that a later start time for ConVal high school would benefit those students, then it would be good for ConVal to do that.	30%	42%	17%	8%	3%
The district's current school configuration, with low-enrollment elementary schools, is not the best use of financial resources.	45%	25%	18%	12%	0%
One of the best ways to ensure ConVal has great teachers is to offer salaries that are competitive regionally.	49%	41%	0%	8%	2%
I worry about how I will pay my tax bill each year.	13%	38%	12%	27%	10%
Our current property tax rates likely deter families from moving here.	17%	41%	14%	22%	5%
Our town lacks adequate space for community events or meetings.	7%	5%	14%	56%	19%

Temple Responses n = 159	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
If ConVal student enrollment continues to decline, we should look at options for reducing the number of schools.	18%	22%	27%	18%	16%
Students in really small classes (less than 10 students) are more likely to learn than students in classes with 20-25 students.	43%	32%	16%	6%	4%

Other than perhaps a shorter bus ride, there is little student benefit to having an elementary school in a town.	6%	8%	4%	23%	59%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the elementary schools.	27%	37%	24%	8%	3%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the middle schools.	29%	40%	21%	8%	2%
One of the major reasons my family moved to this town is because there is an elementary school in it.	36%	24%	14%	14%	12%
Property values in this town are higher because there is an elementary school located in it.	25%	25%	24%	17%	9%
If ConVal can deliver the same academic rigor, I would prefer the district do that at a reduced cost to taxpayers.	28%	26%	29%	13%	4%
The community understands the finances of the ConVal school district.	1%	27%	24%	31%	17%
It would be fine if 5 th grade students were kept in each ConVal elementary school, instead of going to a middle school.	48%	34%	11%	3%	4%
A ConVal school with grades 7-12 under 1 roof would offer middle school students more positive benefits than negative impacts.	9%	16%	35%	23%	18%
A ConVal student should get the same curriculum and services, regardless of which town the student lives in.	53%	39%	5%	3%	0%
If research shows that multi-age classrooms (for example, students in grades 1 and 2 together) are good for student learning, then it would be okay for ConVal to implement them.	32%	48%	13%	4%	4%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal academically.	6%	14%	66%	11%	3%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	12%	16%	61%	11%	1%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal academically.	6%	8%	75%	7%	4%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	7%	8%	75%	9%	1%
If the research shows that a later start time for ConVal high school would benefit those students, then it would be good for ConVal to do that.	34%	40%	15%	8%	3%
The district's current school configuration, with low-enrollment elementary schools, is not the best use of financial resources.	16%	17%	28%	22%	17%
One of the best ways to ensure ConVal has great teachers is to offer salaries that are competitive regionally.	44%	43%	8%	3%	2%
I worry about how I will pay my tax bill each year.	13%	26%	12%	41%	8%
Our current property tax rates likely deter families from moving here.	17%	28%	19%	28%	9%
Our town lacks adequate space for community events or meetings.	8%	16%	10%	49%	17%

Results By Age

A total of 1,555 residents completed the community survey.

Town	# of Surveys	% of Total
18-30	57	4%
31-40	275	18%
41-50	298	20%
51-60	277	19%
61+	582	39%
Skipped	66	
	1,489	

How long have you lived in your current town?	18-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+
0-5 Years	47%	34%	24%	17%	10%
6-10 Years	23%	35%	24%	11%	10%
11-15 Years	7%	11%	18%	12%	9%
16-20 Years	7%	7%	15%	16%	8%
21+ Years	16%	12%	18%	44%	64%

What is your gender?	18-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+
Male	25%	19%	22%	28%	35%
Female	72%	71%	69%	65%	59%
Other	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Prefer Not To Say	4%	10%	7%	8%	6%

In what town do you currently reside?	18-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+
Antrim	7%	11%	6%	6%	7%
Bennington	16%	8%	9%	7%	4%
Dublin	4%	8%	9%	6%	7%
Francestown	12%	15%	14%	8%	13%
Greenfield	23%	13%	12%	9%	6%
Hancock	5%	12%	10%	16%	22%
Peterborough	28%	25%	25%	29%	25%
Sharon	2%	2%	4%	4%	5%
Temple	4%	7%	10%	15%	11%

Other Demographics	18-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+
Have school-age children	24	221	248	74	21
Have children enrolled in a ConVal schools	13	177	200	53	12
Has a child with an IEP attending ConVal	0	57	66	24	6
Current employee of ConVal School District	4	32	33	39	28

Asked of All Survey Respondents

	% Strongly Agree + % Agree				
	18-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+
If ConVal student enrollment continues to decline, we should look at options for reducing the number of schools.	39%	49%	53%	67%	63%
Students in really small classes (less than 10 students) are more likely to learn than students in classes with 20-25 students.	89%	71%	69%	57%	60%
Other than perhaps a shorter bus ride, there is little student benefit to having an elementary school in a town.	23%	26%	24%	30%	27%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the elementary schools.	79%	70%	73%	72%	71%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the middle schools.	82%	73%	77%	78%	75%
One of the major reasons my family moved to this town is because there is an elementary school in it.	51%	50%	49%	36%	36%
Property values in this town are higher because there is an elementary school located in it.	39%	42%	44%	42%	36%
If ConVal can deliver the same academic rigor, I would prefer the district do that at a reduced cost to taxpayers.	63%	56%	64%	74%	68%
The community understands the finances of the ConVal school district.	32%	21%	15%	19%	22%
It would be fine if 5 th grade students were kept in each ConVal elementary school, instead of going to a middle school.	68%	75%	78%	71%	72%
A ConVal school with grades 7-12 under 1 roof would offer middle school students more positive benefits than negative impacts.	21%	15%	21%	35%	31%
A ConVal student should get the same curriculum and services, regardless of which town the student lives in.	98%	89%	91%	96%	91%
If research shows that multi-age classrooms (for example, students in grades 1 and 2 together) are good for student learning, then it would be okay for ConVal to implement them.	54%	53%	63%	62%	73%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal academically.	42%	43%	42%	39%	28%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	58%	53%	57%	43%	33%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal academically.	47%	29%	31%	32%	20%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	42%	28%	35%	36%	20%
If the research shows that a later start time for ConVal high school would benefit those students, then it would be good for ConVal to do that.	72%	72%	74%	74%	75%
The district's current school configuration, with low-enrollment elementary schools, is not the best use of financial resources.	39%	50%	56%	61%	60%
One of the best ways to ensure ConVal has great teachers is to offer salaries that are competitive regionally.	86%	88%	93%	90%	89%
I worry about how I will pay my tax bill each year.	35%	38%	40%	56%	44%

	% Strongly Agree + % Agree				
	18-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+
Our current property tax rates likely deter families from moving here.	56%	55%	53%	58%	55%
Our town lacks adequate space for community events or meetings.	26%	19%	22%	25%	17%

As long as the cost per student is not more than _____ different between the elementary schools, we should keep all the current ConVal elementary schools operational.

	18-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+
\$0	25%	32%	33%	41%	34%
\$1,500	36%	24%	22%	22%	21%
\$3,000	16%	11%	10%	10%	10%
\$4,500	7%	6%	8%	6%	6%
Other	15%	27%	28%	21%	29%

Once a ConVal elementary school has less than _____ students, we should consider closing it.

	18-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+
25	21%	21%	20%	17%	18%
50	23%	30%	24%	31%	31%
75	12%	11%	13%	14%	11%
100	12%	8%	12%	14%	9%
We should never close a local school.	32%	30%	31%	23%	31%

Asked of ConVal Parents

In which schools do you currently have children?

School	# of Respondents
Antrim ES	38
Bennington/Pierce ES	38
Dublin ES	41
Francestown ES	43
Greenfield ES	54
Hancock ES	46
Peterborough ES	87
Temple ES	31
Great Brook MS	96
South Meadow MS	110
ConVal HS	182

	% Strongly Agree + % Agree				
	18-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+
n =	13	177	200	54	15
All of my children had a great experience in their elementary school.		82%	85%	83%	
One or more of my children was sometimes the "odd one out" in elementary school.		25%	28%	28%	
All of my children formed friendships in their elementary school that lasted through high school.		63%	59%	77%	
Academically, one or more of my children was not well-prepared for middle school.		20%	19%	11%	
Our middle school does not offer some academic or extracurricular opportunities I would like my children to have.		42%	43%	35%	
Our high school does not offer some academic or extracurricular opportunities I would like my children to have.		33%	38%	37%	
School Board members from my community understand the educational needs of students.		31%	38%	26%	
I trust our school board members to make the best decisions for all students.		26%	31%	24%	

Note: Respondents who selected 'NA' (Not Applicable) were excluded from the percentage calculations as this response does not indicate either agreement or disagreement with the given statement.

Results By Parental Status

	% Strongly Agree + % Agree	
	Parent	Non-Parent
If ConVal student enrollment continues to decline, we should look at options for reducing the number of schools.	50%	62%
Students in really small classes (less than 10 students) are more likely to learn than students in classes with 20-25 students.	71%	62%
Other than perhaps a shorter bus ride, there is little student benefit to having an elementary school in a town.	22%	28%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the elementary schools.	75%	70%
I think it is important that ConVal spend about the same amount of money per student across the middle schools.	78%	74%
One of the major reasons my family moved to this town is because there is an elementary school in it.	56%	36%
Property values in this town are higher because there is an elementary school located in it.	43%	38%
If ConVal can deliver the same academic rigor, I would prefer the district do that at a reduced cost to taxpayers.	56%	70%
The community understands the finances of the ConVal school district.	21%	20%
It would be fine if 5 th grade students were kept in each ConVal elementary school, instead of going to a middle school.	72%	74%
A ConVal school with grades 7-12 under 1 roof would offer middle school students more positive benefits than negative impacts.	18%	30%
A ConVal student should get the same curriculum and services, regardless of which town the student lives in.	93%	91%
If research shows that multi-age classrooms (for example, students in grades 1 and 2 together) are good for student learning, then it would be okay for ConVal to implement them.	54%	68%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal academically.	42%	33%
The 8 ConVal elementary schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	54%	39%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal academically.	33%	25%
The 2 current ConVal middle schools are not equal in extracurricular opportunities.	34%	26%
If the research shows that a later start time for ConVal high school would benefit those students, then it would be good for ConVal to do that.	72%	75%
The district's current school configuration, with low-enrollment elementary schools, is not the best use of financial resources.	52%	59%
One of the best ways to ensure ConVal has great teachers is to offer salaries that are competitive regionally.	94%	88%
I worry about how I will pay my tax bill each year.	38%	47%

	% Strongly Agree + % Agree	
	Parent	Non-Parent
Our current property tax rates likely deter families from moving here.	50%	57%
Our town lacks adequate space for community events or meetings.	21%	20%

As long as the cost per student is not more than _____ different between the elementary schools, we should keep all the current ConVal elementary schools operational.

	Parent	Non-Parent
\$0	30%	36%
\$1,500	24%	22%
\$3,000	10%	11%
\$4,500	7%	6%
Other	28%	25%

Once a ConVal elementary school has less than _____ students, we should consider closing it.

	Parent	Non-Parent
25	23%	18%
50	28%	29%
75	11%	13%
100	8%	12%
We should never close a local school.	31%	28%

Final Survey Question Responses

The final survey question was “We have asked you these questions to help your school district improve. If you have any other ideas or thoughts about how ConVal could be improved, please tell us here.

- ◆ - *Outdoor time and learning is crucial to development and will help students immune systems*
- *No student should have to worry about whether or not they can afford food even high schoolers*
- ◆ *The reasons for consolidating the schools back in 1967 made sense back then based on the educational, demographic, social, and economic conditions of that time. Those same factors are no longer applicable to our current conditions. Our current*

arrangement is unsustainable, and the board and administration has known about this for over a decade. The notion that having elementary students spend their first five years interacting with the same small cohort of students needs to be rethought. While it may benefit a few, it may not be in the best interests of others for their social, emotional, and academic growth. Children also learn by being exposed to the learning and reasoning styles of their peers and working cooperatively with a variety of students. In addition, considering our history of having very small class sizes, one would expect that our standardized measures of student learning would be much higher than it is and has been.

- ◆ *1. What will the cost to maintain an empty school building be less, more or about the same as it currently costs?*
- 2. Will staff lose their jobs if some schools are closed?*
Be sure to have data that honestly answers these 2 questions.
- ◆ *1. better pay to attract teachers*
- 2. Stop school vouchers*
- 3. Stop the state from telling teachers what they are allowed to say or not say in our schools.*
- 4. Teach parents how to respect teachers the way we did when our kids were in school.*
- ◆ *1. You need to apologize for the failed covid initiatives & bullying teachers into taking the experimental medical products known as vaccines. Take responsibility for your poor choices and re-evaluate how to best support student learning without coercing medical decisions. Follow the science and pledge to never again require masks for teachers or students. Some up with a plan to remediate the damage done by these failed policies.*
- 2. Make a commitment to keep medical decisions out of schools, including vaccine clinics.*
- 3. Continue pursuing legal avenues to ensure the state is paying for all of the mandated services and 'extras' required to educate a child, such as transportation and providing feminine hygiene products.*
- 4. Decrease administrative positions while also making administrators teach classes. Structure the district so the people making decisions are also faced with the day-to-day challenges and joys of educating children.*
- 5. Focus on work-readiness & trades instead of pushing kids to college.*
- 6. Focus on teaching kids how to think & evaluate using logic; nix the requirements for kids to memorize and regurgitate facts.*
- 7. Create a Capital Improvement Plan that can stabilize tax rates through thoughtful planning. Nearly every of the eight years I have lived in town we have been asked for millions of dollars for special projects that absolutely could have been planned for. As our population ages, it is increasingly important that tax rates remain stable. What I have seen is that our town's tax rate is based consistently on ConVal's budget & accounts for over 70% of our tax rate. And that rate keeps going up year after year, yet I see very little going to the educators. The priorities in our district seem backwards; it should be teachers first, materials second, then facilities, sports, administrators, etc. Temple's BAC & CIP have done a wonderful job in keeping our tax*

rate stable while focusing on the vital expenses that make our community desirable. Perhaps you should talk with those committees' long-term members for suggestions on how to improve the ConVal budget and expenditure planning.

- ◆ 5th grade needs to be at the elementary school. A 10 year old getting up at 530 am to walk a mile to the bus stop for 620 in the dark most mornings because the bus doesn't drop the kids off at their houses in the small towns anymore once in middle school is a very serious concern ! A suggestion for easing into middle school as well is taking a look at the amount of kids coming in from town and possibly try to have them in a class with a fellow classmate . For sports how is a child supposed to try out for a sport offered at the school but even pick one as you can only play one sport and you are trying out for it all week?
- ◆ 5th graders should stay in elementary schools, great brook should consolidate with SMS
- ◆ A lot of unknowns at this time, current student to teacher ratio in each school and each grade level. I don't believe mixing 7th and 8th graders with 11th & 12th graders is a good idea, too many opportunities for bullying. Home Ec and competency testing should be brought back (how to write a check, write a proper friendly & business letter, fill out an envelope, fill out a 1040EZ tax return, etc), not relying on electronics & technology to do thinking for our younger generations, etc etc etc
- ◆ A town fair, without an elementary school is a town entering a death spiral because young families will not arrive.
- ◆ About 15 years ago, our school board rep suggested that ConVal close Great Brook School, send all our students to South Meadow for 6-8, and keep all the 5th graders in their local elementary schools. If we had done that, we'd be in a better situation now and we probably would have save \$\$ in the bargain. Is it too late? I think if TES is closed, Temple has to look at the option of tuitioning students to Wilton, Milford, Mascenic, or ConVal, rather than being part of the ConVal district.
- ◆ Accountability for all - students, staff, and system. No more excuses
- ◆ accountability to students for education and to taxpayers that their money is used for education widely. Burnt out teachers and administrators should be replaced.
- ◆ Add 5-6 grades to town elementary schools and have middle school 7-9th grade. Upgrade the high school building so people actually want to send their kids to school there. Hire administrators who treat teachers and students with respect and value. Bring conval schools into the 21st century. Reducing money for education and increasing class sizes is not the way to do that.
- ◆ Add 5th grade to the elementary schools. 6,7 and 8th grade for middle school and 9,10, 11 and 12 for high school.
- ◆ Add childcare services for families in need. Conval could benefit as this could be an intern learning opportunity for the child growth class.
- ◆ Adjoining towns should combine elementary schools. For example Temple and Peterborough; Antrim and Bennington; Greenfield and Frankestown etc...
- ◆ Administration takes too much \$\$ - slim down admin in favor of teachers' salaries. Strengthen core subjects (reading, writing, math)
- ◆ Affordable housing to attract teachers

- ◆ *Again - close PES - send children to the other schools . Less costly.*
- ◆ *All school districts have money being misdirected. Figure out how to streamline the budget by cutting frivolous spending, and keep the local elementary schools open. BTW ... frivolous spending might include lighted athletic fields and plush locker rooms ... neither of which make teams better.*
- ◆ *All students K - 8th grade should have outdoor recess!*
- ◆ *Any school closure should result in a downward adjustment of the school district budget and thus property taxes generally. For a period of years after a closure, give a greater downward adjustment on property taxes in locations suffering a closure to compensate for the loss of an amenity and corresponding loss in property value.*
- ◆ *Any scored extra space should consider how that extra space could be used to benefit the students & the community, as well as attracting more students and families.*
- ◆ *Appropriate consequences for bad behavior especially at the high school level. Fighting, sexual assaults, drugs are all largely ignored, and make for an unsafe environment.*
- ◆ *-Are you taking into consideration the money gained if ConVal wins its current lawsuit against the State of NH?*
-Challenging student behaviors are the problem- teachers need to see that a plan is being made to help with this problem or we will continue to lose staffing. Behavior issues are taking away from quality learning for all students. If class sizes increase with the unbeatable behavior we already have, we lose teachers.
- ◆ *As a former elementary school teacher and principal I believe children learn best when exposed to a critical number of other children. They need to experience a diversity of thinking and beliefs. Classrooms that are 8-10 students are too small for healthy social and learning environments.*
Low enrollment schools should be consolidated with other schools while keeping class sizes at optimal levels for learning. Fiscal equity and resources of every kind between schools should be the same. We can't have schools that offer more or less in recourses differ from town to town. The cost of operating low enrollment schools is just too much.
- ◆ *As a parent of a child with severe food allergies, we have found the schools to be lacking education and understanding. Each year we have to advocate and inform teachers and staff that our child has food allergies. More education and advocacy for students with food allergies would be greatly appreciated.*
- ◆ *As a parent of a recent graduate of the Conval school system I would say treating all schools the same as far as use of resources is important. Of course pay is a factor compared to other districts as well. Keeping all already strained resources paid by tax dollars within the already strained district like busing, use of paras etc. to Conval only. My child enjoyed all of his years in the district with both in school and extra curricular sports. Thriving in college now. His experience is why we bought a home here 19 years ago. Local schools were key in that decision.*
- ◆ *As a senior on a fixed income, think about seniors who would like to stay in their homes when you make your decisions. You are pricing us out of town!*
- ◆ *As a taxpayer, I would like to see better communication from the school districts to*

residents about how the schools are preparing students (e.g. graduation rates, math, science, reading, writing and other competencies, etc.). I am also interested in monitoring staffing levels and staffing credentials. Are we affected by the current shortage of special education, math, science, and business teachers in NH? What is the plan to address such shortages now and in the future? What is the plan to get Conval High School onto the list of top 25 high schools in NH?

- ◆ As much as we all dislike the idea of sharing elementary schools, it may be more practical in some instances.

I think we need to look at towns with low enrollment, and consider how best to meet the needs of our students, families and community members. For instance, Bennington and Frankestown elementary are approx 10 minutes apart, and could be joined without major impact to how long children spend on the bus. The few students each year from Sharon could attend Temple, instead. Hancock and Dublin are perhaps too far away from each other and surrounding options, but perhaps could go through 5th grade, with K&1, 2&3 as combined classrooms. Greenfield could also go through 5th grade as an option if enrollment is a barrier to keeping that school open, as well as the option to attend Frankestown/Bennington Elementary or Peterborough Elementary.

This is however, a double-edged sword; if we close an elementary school or two due to low enrollment we may actually further deter young families from moving into the area because of not having an elementary school in town. We need to be very careful about making sure these little ones are close to home, and not spending more than 40 minutes on the bus to and from schools.

- ◆ *At least 2 schools need to be closed and those students may attend the next closest school in the district. We need to stop paying for nursing staff at the smallest schools. We need to increase teacher wages to recruit and retain them.*
- ◆ *Attention to curriculum, reduction in the number of administrators*
- ◆ *Attracting more teachers at the high school level in the math, science and engineering departments. Understanding why so many teachers leave the district, to work in other districts.*
- ◆ *ban possession of cell phones during school hours, ban use of calculator use in math, math teaches logic and problem solving, calculators negate these lessons, dress code, get rid of block scheduling for many reasons, teenagers can't concentrate for more than 45 min. or so, students should take math and english for four years so when they move on, they have some memory of it, seniors end up with too much free and wasted time.*
- ◆ *Be better with your messaging - Most people are not aware that these meeting were/are evening happening.*
- ◆ *Be more frugal and use the resources we have! Increased spending and increased salaries will not help any of us in the long term. It does NOT cost thousands of dollars a year to educate a student well. If that were the case our enrollment would be going up, instead it's dropping drastically as parents realize the quality is going down while the cost continues to skyrocket!*
- ◆ *be sure to hire qualified and certified teachers and aides*

- ◆ *Be very careful how you handle and school closures in towns, especially in those towns in which the elementary school is the de facto community center for families and children*
- ◆ *Because of the dramatic increase in property taxes over the last ten years, the district should concentrate on ways to reduce costs while maintaining focus on core educational concepts (reading, writing, math, science, history/civics). When those savings are realized, they need to be passed back to the taxpayer.*
- ◆ *Become efficient. We have a high per student cost and consolidation may help. Temple and Bennington rankings are very low state wide. Efficiency may produce productivity and better learning capabilities*
- ◆ *Become more efficient. The rankings of Temple and Frankestown are among the worst in the state.*
- ◆ *Before trying to consolidate schools, the district should look at why the enrollment is low and continues to decrease. ConVal schools do not offer great academics, maybe if the curriculum and what and how it was being taught was better then people would actually want their kids enrolled in conval schools. I am a ConVal graduate, as is my husband, we moved to Antrim specifically for AES and GBS and ended up pulling our children out and seemed out alternative options.*
- ◆ *Better curriculum, education focused, less attention on gender or social issues. Quit wasting money and time, conval in general is a disaster. The education is lacking. The elementary school isn't actually what deters me most from enrolling my children back in public schools, SMS and the high school are a much bigger deterrent. Take out those schools and send the kids to fill up their own elementary school buildings with k-12.*
- ◆ *Better facilities*
Promote more CTE opportunities and space
- ◆ *Better Ms and hs bus routes. Students are on busses for over an hour and need to swap busses. 5th graders should not be on busses w 12th graders. Ms and hs should be 2 separate and distinct routes.*
- ◆ *Better support for the schools for from the Superentend office.*
- ◆ *Both my kids went to conval but now I pay through the nose in taxes with no kids in school for years. Time for that to change if we want to keep our retirees!*
- ◆ *Bring 5th and 6th graders back to local schools and combine grades.*
- ◆ *Bring 5th graders back to elementary schools, create 1 junior high at SMS (especially since district does not own Great Brook building).*
- ◆ *Bring kids together from schools in nearby towns to do programs together, but have most programming in their local school.*
- ◆ *Bringing the 5th graders to the elementary schools and combining the middle schools would be a great benefit to all of Conval.*
- ◆ *Bus all children at the same time with transfers for middle and high school at the elementary schools. Pick children up at their driveways instead of central bus stops. Put 5th grade back in elementary school. If consolidating elementary schools limit to 20 students per class max. Only do this if the financial relief is clear. We chose our home 2 years ago for the small town and small classroom sizes. Conval does not rank high academically (Greatschools.org) but we considered everything else the district*

had going for itself and settled here with an elementary and middle schooler at the time. Had there not been small elementary schools, we would likely have kept looking. Kids need the added benefit of time with a teacher and we know this first hand from having been in large schools previously. Kids should not be numbers. Music and art should be offered more often in elementary school and schools should combine for concerts, art shows, etc. That would allow the elementary kids the same opportunities in all locations.

- ◆ *Bussing young children to a big elementary school is not a good solution.*
- ◆ *Can we change the district articles first before deciding what to do about small sized schools. It will be nearly impossible to get the 2/3 votes needed to close a school now that Peterborough residents must vote in March for the school district elections and then in May for town elections! People will. One to amend the articles before having to decide about closing a specific school*
- ◆ *categorically reduce the cost per student, and refocus on basic education, home work, use text books not computers, stop toying with children*
- ◆ *Celebrate our community schools, instead of working to try and close them every few years.*
- ◆ *Certified specialists, such as speech and occupational therapy assistants, should be paid as such (versus being on the para scale). Likewise, licensed clinicians should have their own pay scale, and not be on the teachers' scale.*
- ◆ *Change administration....the climate of education is changing. Many people are leaving the schools because of poor performance, lack of education, behavior issues of students, political items being brought into schools.*
- ◆ *Change the funding formula of public schools in NH; higher salaries for teachers, better training for teachers, more outdoor programs for students, more art for students...*
- ◆ *Charter school impacts*
- ◆ *Children may do better with individual sport rather than team completeive sports such as football. It would be a safer environment for them also.*
- ◆ *Clear cost and data available- so people can make educated decisions.*
- ◆ *close both of the middle schools. Elementary schools shift to K - 6 or 7. HS goes from Grade 7 or 8 through 12 with a junior and a senior HS in the same building.*
- ◆ *Close Great Brook middle school and close Temple and Francestown elementary schools.*

On the Conval school budget ballot, it should not be stated that the "School Board recommends this". If this recommendation by the School Board continues then it should also be stated that if passed then your taxes or rent would likely increase.

- ◆ *Close the low attendance elementary schools! Do not keep 5th graders there. In the smaller towns the kids have already been together with the same 10 - 20 kids for 5 years. They need to be exposed to other kids.*
- ◆ *Close the middle schools and make the elementary schools a K-6 and the high school a 7-12 grade school.*
- ◆ *Close under-utilized elementary schools*

I know it was part of the original SAU 1 agreement, but we cannot afford them all today - it is a shrinking, not growing, district.

- ◆ *Closure of any school should be accompanied by district support for the repurposing of the building through measures such as aid in establishing a TIF district for the site, creation of a development corporation or foundation, assistance in acquiring state and/or federal aid. OR, as part of the deal, the district should temporarily invest in establishing a ConVal Site Redevelopment Authority to help all affected towns to transition. In other words, don't just throw affected towns out into the cold.*
- ◆ *Combine schools and save money.*
- ◆ *Combine some elementary schools, for the good of the students. Give them an opportunity for more interaction with other children and educational challenges*
- ◆ *Combine the middle schools.*
- ◆ *combine the two middle schools into the high school*
- ◆ *Combining elementary schools will provide greater opportunities for kids to learn, grow, socialize, participate in activities and develop their individual gifts. It will also provide more services (IEPs, academic support, non-academic programs such as sports/arts) by combining resources and utilizing the awesome teaching staff.*
- ◆ *combining grades would be a good use of resources I believe and it's been shown to be beneficial to students.*
- ◆ *Combining the elementary schools into three or four is a great idea. Keeping two middle schools gives students a chance to reinvent themselves when they get to high school. Otherwise, it is just a high school for 8 years.*
- ◆ *Commit to a plan of energy independence throughout the district by 2035. Continue to challenge the state's irresponsibility regarding the funding of education.*
- ◆ *Communication between the school and the town is very poor. Many towns in NH utilize their school and school grounds for community events and ConVal is not open to collaborations for large scale community events. Also, there are many nonprofits offering services that could help families in the school district and there are barriers to providing this critical information through the schools. There is always a message that the school doesn't want to be perceived as "supporting" one nonprofit over the other when all we want is to help the families of our community be informed about their options, choices, and services available to them.*
- ◆ *Complete the survey and take action on it, you will not be able to please everyone*
- ◆ *Comprehensive marketing strategies undertaken by the school district to bring more students into the system. The school district needs to operate more like a business. You can't shrink your way to greatness. I've never seen an add dor the conval school district. Not in print, electronic media, broadcast media or social networks. Nothing. And yet to simply accept that more and more kids are going to either private schools or home schooling with no efforts whatsoever to counter the trend. What happens if you continue to lose students? More closures? What a losing strategy. Do the hard thing and fight for the kids.*
- ◆ *Condense elementary schools and combine middle school. Keep middle and high school separate*
- ◆ *Consider creative ways to keep the elementary schools open such as combining grades*

(it has been successfully done) and adding 5th grade to the school. I think it is important to keep the little ones close to home.

- ◆ *consider including a "fact sheet" or refence to figures at the start of the survey that provides context to the school situation. For example # of schools, enrollment, cost per student, trends, etc.*
- ◆ *Consider public magnet schools.*
- ◆ *Consider selling off the two middle schools, keeping K-6 in elementary schools (all towns), and make HS for grades 7-12.*
- ◆ *Consider shifting Town of Sharon students to Temple Elementary from PES if that helps balance lower enrollment numbers*
- ◆ *Consider using a building/buildings as an Early childhood center that houses grades preschool-2nd.*
- ◆ *Consolidate*
- ◆ *Consolidate elementary schools*
- ◆ *Consolidate the elementary schools. Peterborough (and potentially a northern elementary school in Antrim). Use the money from closing/selling the small schools to build additional rooms (maybe a K-1 building on the campus, or just additional rooms...if needed).*
- ◆ *Consolidate the middle schools into one in Peterborough. Have all elementary schools K-6*
- ◆ *Consolidate the middle schools, put 5th grade back at elementary schools.*
- ◆ *Consolidating elementary schools will give students more varied opportunities, both academic and extracurricular. Maintaining a school for 30+ students restricts what they can do and who they can meet. I feel that maintaining the local elementary school is unreasonable when other options are readily apparent.*
- ◆ *Consolidating our schools and developing and implementing a plan for relationship and community building. The changes and transition would be very difficult for some, but absolutely could be achieved.*
- ◆ *consolidating schools isn't the only way to cut costs, the budget is bloated in many other areas*
- ◆ *Consolidation is a terrible idea. The loss of an elementary school in Hancock would be detrimental to the growth of our community.*
- ◆ *Consolidation/Reconfiguration is the only option that will provide adequate equity for our students.*
- ◆ *Continue down the path of consolidation.*
- ◆ *Continue these discussions....*
- ◆ *Continue with the goal for preschool for all. If the elementary or other schools need volunteers, publicize it in the various town newsletters. I understand the limitation of district staff, but if you want town people to express opinions on the schools, you need to supply more information like articles in the Ledger, in the town's newsletters. I read both. Have the school board reps do presentations at their town libraries on whatever needs covering. I'm a retired resident, who worked for Conval for almost 3 decades, and I hear almost nothing about the district unless I seek out employees (who are crazy busy and hard working).*

- ◆ *Contributing feedback without understanding costs savings or impact on current staff is neglecting a big community piece. Please consider sharing some numbers so that citizens aren't only making comments based on how they feel without knowing potential impacts on students, taxpayers, individual towns, etc. Thank you.*
- ◆ *ConVal is a good district. The problem is statewide by inadequate funding for public education and reliance on property taxes.*
- ◆ *ConVal needs help*
- ◆ *ConVal SAU 1 should consist of one regional high school and one regional middle school in Peterborough, and Great Brook should be used as a school for students who have special educational needs due to learning difficulties, physical disabilities, or behavioral problems - this school should have highly trained SPED teachers, a low student/teacher ratio, and specific individualized IEP that take into account, for example, an autistic child's unique learning needs such as freedom to move about the classroom, using a fidget device, etc.*

Each elementary school should be "returned" to its town, in whole, under the jurisdiction of its town's government. The running of the school, its tax base, etc. will all be decided at the most basic local level - by its town's citizens. That way, small towns will not have to take on the burden of an overtaxed and mismanaged SAU 1 school district, in its current configuration.

- ◆ *Conval School district serves many. Education is the key to our societies progress. Even though times are challenging cutting costs in education should not be an option. My son graduated from the Conval School District w/ a good education. I want good educating institutions to remain. Children are our future.*
- ◆ *Conval seems to have too many administrators and specialists.*
- ◆ *Conval teachers need more time to collaborate within the building. Our contract hours start 5 minutes before students arrive and end 10 minutes after they leave. This leaves no contracted time to attend meetings and it is expected that we do this on our own time (unpaid). The contract is very vague about this. We need more contracted time and compensation increase so that teachers can be more effective.*
- ◆ *Conval would benefit tremendously if Sanunu and Edelbutt would reverse their push to defund public schools by diverting federal and state dollars to "voucher" program schools many of which do not have to meet the same educational and service standards as public schools. I find this VERY UPSETTING.*
- ◆ *ConVal's total budget is heavily skewed toward classroom and administrative payroll. Closing elementary schools to shift students to "surviving" schools won't save that much classroom payroll. More students would have to be bussed adding to expenses. Empty schools have to be either mothballed or converted at additional expense. Some might think there are big savings in shutting schools, but the savings are small versus the decline of the community and an erosion of property values. Instead, a serious review and reduction of administrative expenses, and shifting a few grade levels (such as 5th to the elementary schools) would be a solution. I know that school administrators are reluctant to cut their own expenses unless forced. Before any elementary school is even considered for closing, the district's administrative staff has*

- to be at a minimal level.
- ◆ *Coordinate district wide specials/planning by time and grade level so same grade teachers can zoom/e-meet for better collaboration.*
 - ◆ *Costs need to go down as enrollment goes down . The reverse is also true. Seems like we have not managed this well.*
 - ◆ *Create a long term plan with milestones at 2,5,10,20 years. Transparency with the plan for community understanding and buy in,*
 - ◆ *Create magnet school for some of elementary schools i.e. STEM; foreign languages.*
 - ◆ *Creative thinking is needed - not just a yes/no question to close down the local schools. What is best for the students and provides the best outcome?*
 - ◆ *Current policies for disciplining behavior problem students aren't working. If a student throws a tantrum, the rest of the class has to leave the classroom, sometimes for up to an hour or more.*
 - ◆ *Cut the management staff*
 - ◆ *Cut the salaries in the Superintendent office.*
 - ◆ *Decisions about the configuration our district should be driven by educational goals, not money. Public education in NH needs our full support. Funding is becoming increasingly political and efforts to underfund public education and redirect tax dollars to the private sector hurt our students and teachers.*
 - ◆ *Dissolve the District. The model has outlived it's usefulness. Towns can decide if they want to fund a community grade school for grades k-5 and use a town funded voucher system for grades 6-12.*
 - ◆ *Diversity in program, instruction, and books. If we can't find staff of color give our students of color something to look at and look up to. Model the world around us not just the people in the district. Prepare the students for a future outside of district.*
 - ◆ *Do not close any of the elementary schools. There is growth and all of the towns and if we close any of them, what will we do in the future when we need the space? There are 90 proposed workforce housing units alone in Peterborough. If you move Temple and Dublin to Peterborough, there will not be room for any other new students. The class sizes will increase and the children will suffer please please please do not close any schools.*
 - ◆ *DO NOT CLOSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS!! A town is nothing without it. if you remove them, it's like tearing out an essential organ. Add preschool, add office space for vetted businesses, but do NOT close the school.*
 - ◆ *Do not close the elementary schools. This survey has questions slanted towards that outcome.*
 - ◆ *Do not have students currently but will in a few years.*
Upper level administration is over paid
2 weeks of unpaid teacher training in august for new teachers is not equatable to other districts
Close elementary schools at the end of their lifespans. Many of us remember Hancock and greenfield elementary being built.
Do not put 5th/6th graders with high school kids.
 - ◆ *Do not make the mistake of considering Peterborough the center of the universe!*

Especially that sick factory building you're calling the middle school. And I'll bet half the staff can't name the EIGHT ConVal towns.

- ◆ *Do what is needed to bring quality teachers to this area.*
- ◆ *Do whatever you can to keep all elementary schools open.*
- ◆ *Don't close down Hancock Elementary. Keep the classes small. Nothing else to say about this.*
- ◆ *Don't close any elementary school. Students benefit from smaller classes. More 1:1 learning time with teachers. Smaller schools are a place of comfort*
- ◆ *DON'T CLOSE ANY SCHOOL. EVER.*
- ◆ *Don't close schools*
- ◆ *don't dismiss multi-age/grade classrooms. They can be more versatile and meet the needs of kids whose academic abilities are mismatched with their social/emotional age.*
- ◆ *Don't take any more Federal funding*
- ◆ *Each town funds their elementary school, co-funds their middle school, and co-funds the high school.... to the standards set by the district for educational equity between schools.*

It would be helpful is the options presented include financial projections, and a population / demographic sensitivity analysis

- ◆ *Educational meetings that include the charter and private schools input and why people are choosing those options over public education.*
- ◆ *Effort should be made to improve affordable housing, workforce housing, accessory, dwelling units, and increasing the number of families and children in our communities, as well as projecting such changes, before implementing changes in use of educational spaces that we may hopefully need in the future. There are many people seeking to move to this area, because of its educational and quality of life resources, who are stymied by the lack of affordable housing. As that is better addressed, School enrollments may increase returning the vibrancy and multigenerational strengths of our communities*
- ◆ *Elementary k-6. 1 Middle 7-8. 1-HS. Close GBS.*
- ◆ *Elementary school can be up to grade 8, add more grades to increase enrollment. Give neighboring towns an option on which school they attend.*
- ◆ *Elementary schools in ConVal with higher enrollment have lower performance scores. Lower enrollment allows for more classroom assistance and flexibility before an IEP needs to be written.*
- ◆ *Elementary schools should be consolidated. The current configuration is a waste of money and resources with such low enrollment.*
- ◆ *Elementary schools should remain in each town. 18 people in Sharon who have never had an elementary school should be weighed in with as much weight as 1 of 8 town should carry. The high school could be divided into wings separating middle school kids from High School kids as much as possible. Depending on the demographics 5th - 7th grade or 5th and 6th grade go back to elementary 7th and / or 8th grades could go to the high school. Close Middle schools and lease them out with an option to get*

- one back in 10 or 15 years in case the demographics reverse themselves over time.*
- ◆ *Eliminate Charter school and private school tax subsidies by law which at this time undermines our public schools.*
 - ◆ *Encourage home schoolers to see the benefits of participating in public schools*
 - ◆ *encourage more outdoor education and give more curriculum control back to teachers discretion*
 - ◆ *Ensure that students in ALL of our schools have the necessary support and resources re: emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs.*
 - ◆ *Equity between towns and especially middle schools is very important*
 - ◆ *Every town needs an elementary school. It is important to the towns sense of community. The school system needs to focus on education. This areas school rating has declined in the past 20 years*
 - ◆ *Expand trade programs for highschool aged children, and if elementary schools hit less than 25 kids combine that school with the next lowest, certainly do not combine all of them and have massive classes*
 - ◆ *Extend the grade levels in the elementary schools to make full use of available space. If considering closing Temple elementary school consider a Charter School which may keep kids in the town who otherwise would leave town to go to another private school.*
 - ◆ *Families with elementary age children should have more options than to bus their 6 year olds to school 30-45 minutes away from their parents. Forcing people to send their kids to PES is not going to magically increase the number of young families moving to Peterborough. No one can afford to live here.*
 - ◆ *financial decisions for our schools should be made like any other business, not just throwing tax dollars at them.*
 - ◆ *Find better teachers*
Keep the same teachers longer
Stop shuffling staff around
Kids need roots, stability and consistency
 - ◆ *First start with 1 Middle School with the same extracurricular activities and curriculum options.*
 - ◆ *Focus education on the basics STEM.*
 - ◆ *Focus on academics*
 - ◆ *Focus on better recruitment and retention to combat misinformation about public school, to ensure not losing enrollment to homeschool and charter schools*
 - ◆ *Focus on the basic fundamentals of education and not the bells and whistles. Cut extra curricular activities. It's about the needs not the wants regardless of other schools or districts.*
 - ◆ *For many, strong academics and athletics attract and retain students. When either wane, families look for alternatives. Cost-cutting measures need to come from other opportunities.*
 - ◆ *Foreign languages should be taught in grades 1-12;*
Euclid's Elements should be taught;
The schools should adopt the Great Books Program;

- Classes should be taught using the Socratic method*
- ◆ *Further investment in smaller/weaker schools to establish international baccalaureate and specialized satellite offerings (arts focused, STEM) to attract students to tuition in from the region or be more appealing in lieu of homeschooling.*
 - ◆ *Gather the number of students who have been pulled out of ConVal and compare to before pandemic numbers.*
 - ◆ *Get a new superintendent who practices accountability, communication, and transparency and leads the administration*
 - ◆ *Get affordable housing in all Conval towns which would attract families with school age kids*
 - ◆ *Get back to letting the teachers teach and parents parent - recently there has been too much outside influence and interference on the administration from "helicopter" parents who are now not helping their children learn valuable life lessons through their education.*
 - ◆ *Get back to the basics of math, science, english, history. It's pretty poor that many of our students don't graduate with the necessary skills to write a resume , a letter, or balance a checkbook.*
 - ◆ *Get rid of Administrators to lower costs. Superintendents salary should be tied to learning outcomes, hiring and retention of excellent teachers, and having a world class curriculum at a lower cost per student.*
 - ◆ *Get rid of the teachers union there should have been school and staffing cuts years ago*
 - ◆ *Get rid of vouchers and the "choice" myth (stealing money from public schools)*
 - ◆ *Get the State to put equivalent standards on 'home-schoolers' as many of these children aren't being educated by parents who know little about education but know about play time.*
 - ◆ *Getting rid of smaller class sizes is detrimental to children and teachers. Having more schools offers parents more options (we're in Peterborough, the preschool was full and we were sent to Hancock and there are 6/8or 9 students who are also from Peterborough). I would not send my children to school if there were 20+ children in his class.*

We chose to move here due to convals reputation and have seen it steadily decline. This is not and should not be a numbers game. These are our children and the future of everything. What we put into them at home and at school matters. It matters way more than politics or money. Same for the teachers.

- ◆ *Given the current state of childcare- I think It might be beneficial to provide before and after school care .*
- ◆ *Given the reduction in the # of students, the quality of the education should be getting better. ConVal still has low proficiency in Science and Math. Additionally, most of our >\$10K in taxes goes to the School District -- that's concerning especially when proficiency scores aren't great. I realize that they're not great in the majority of NH -- but IF CONVAL could get our scores up in math, science -- PEOPLE WOULD WANT TO MOVE TO CONVAL. Right now, it's becoming a 'retirement community' and that's*

concerning. Additionally, how many foreign languages are taught in the ConVal system? do a line item assessment of what the foreign language program is costing us -- AND REDUCE it to help save taxpayer \$\$\$\$. Teach Spanish, and lose the others because we can't afford it.

- ◆ Go to a classis education model. Make the schools large enough to offer shop, plumbing and basic electrical classes
- ◆ Good salaries and benefits attract and retain good teachers and staff.
- ◆ Grades 6 through 12 on the same campus would be okay if there could be a separate wing for the grades 6 and 7 classes.
- ◆ Greatest concern would be reconfiguring the whole district and having a population boom 10 years from now only to not have the option of using the elementary schools any longer and needing to build more schools. Close tiny schools, redistribute those small towns between bigger town's elementary schools, keep the middle schools and the high school the same. This eliminates buildings without completely rearranging the district.
- ◆ Have administrative interns put in a different school than their current position/location while earning their degree.
- ◆ Have elementary school grades 1-6
Middle school 7-8
High school 9-12
- ◆ Have elementary students ride the bus earlier than high school.
Put grades kindergarten to 6th grades in each elementary school.
Close middle schools- Peterborough and Antrim and put 7-12 in HS
First choice would be one middle school for 7 & 8 plus HS
stop smoking and doing drugs in schools- is there a police officer in the HS?
[redacted]
- ◆ Have K-6 in each elementary school, grades 7-8 at Conval. Close both middle schools
- ◆ Have student teachers assist in classrooms and teaching assistants for all classrooms
- ◆ Having elementary run through 5th or 6th grade is how it used to be. A lot of kids are not ready to do middle school in 5th grade.
- ◆ Having high school kids help at their local elementary school (1/2 day per week per high school student) might help the elementary be a more important part of the local community. Maintain the connection for all students to their local building.
- ◆ Having just moved our children to ConVal from a very large district, we are thrilled with the schools so far. Our children previously endured large, overcrowded classrooms and extremely over extended teachers. This situation left the majority of children lost in the shuffle, in front of screens doing hours of "educational" computer games instead of receiving small group face time with teachers. Here at ConVal, they have excelled and improved by leaps and bounds due to the reasonable class sizes and actual engagement with teachers in both elementary and middle school.
- ◆ High school should start no earlier than 10:00 AM. Move all classes (Middle through High School) to a project based learning model with collaboration between disciplines. To enable collaboration Teachers would use their Wednesdays for collaborative planning. Classes would run only 4 days a week for students with Wednesday for

- Teacher prep day and while students work under supervision by part time (one day a week permanent substitutes) on their projects.*
- ◆ *Hour long bus rides are not acceptable for any grade.*
 - ◆ *How about financial accountability? Get rid of top heavy administration and lower admin salaries. Have administrative salaries linked to accountability to citizens. Make school boards more accountable to citizens and have more citizen friendly meetings. Publicize what is actually happening at schools regularly such as curriculum changes. Decrease money spent on sports and pay teachers more. Allow townspeople to take classes free of charge. Partner with community colleges and Keene State to offer HS kids classes. Offer those of us who are long time educators volunteer opportunities to support classroom teachers.*
 - ◆ *I am a [redacted] with similar issues. It is not an easy one to unpack. I would be helpful in this survey to be able to know the enrollment of each school.*
 - ◆ *I am a homeschool mom. Many of my fellow homeschool parents refuse to put their children in public education because of the liberal agenda. Address that issue and you will grow your numbers. The "Left" has ruined traditional education. My son is now in college and my daughter is a HS junior and I never would let either of them attend ConVal because of that. You lose families with strong family values and I am willing to pay double to not have your liberal agenda indoctrinate my children, I love them too much. Homeschools has doubled since Covid, parents saw what was being taught and realized their children weren't safe with the concepts being covered within the textbooks. We were a single parent income home and we sold our larger home and relocated to afford to homeschool and it is was worth the sacrifice.*
 - ◆ *I am a recently retired ConVal employee who worked across all eight elementary schools [redacted]. This gave me a unique perspective on the similarities/differences and challenges between these schools. The smallest elementary schools are wonderful each in their own ways however the inequities between the larger and smaller schools is a great concern. And as a ConVal resident for over 35 years, I understand why families in the smallest communities want to maintain their schools. I am wondering what it would take to 'convince' these families that reconfiguration is a reasonable plan.*
 - ◆ *I am almost 40 and went to Elementary, Middle, and High schools in the Conval District. The most beneficial part of my learning experience was the smaller classes. I had no extra learning needs however, the teachers weren't as stressed with smaller numbers and they were really able to learn their students needs. If parents wanted bigger classes, they would send their kids to Keene or Milford.*
 - ◆ *I am concerned about the districts reasoning for consolidation, and do not trust that the reasoning is in the best interest of learners. Any decision moving forward must be about adequate education for all. That is not currently the practice, and it is disheartening.*
 - ◆ *I am new to the district and do not have any ideas at this time. I hope to learn more as time goes by.*
 - ◆ *I am thinking that small schools are not the problem, you seem to be trying to solve a different problem by making small towns lose a big part of the reason they like living*

- here. Schools will get to the correct size if you work with us, rather than against us.
- ◆ *I am very disappointed with the way some of these questions, and this initial town meeting, was presented. In particular, the token surveys. All of the answers are incredibly skewed, forcing us to pick between the best of 4 terrible answers. In addition, why can no one give us responses to the questions we have asked. What is the actual cost of keeping our school open? Why do we keep getting told that each student will have a similar learning experience if put in the same school, when we all know in reality, that will never happen. Well paid, engaged teachers; Small class sizes; A supportive town and community; These are things that make up a great school. We understand that small schools are expensive to keep open. I keep hearing that it will save money to close the schools and this money can be put to better use or perhaps even save the taxpayer. We know this money will never be seen by the actual taxpayer—it just sounds good. As far as actual money savings if the school is closed—how do we accommodate larger class sizes when these students have to be absorbed into Peterborough Elementary? Do we have to look for additional teachers/aides or just pay the current teachers? Do we need to add on classrooms? what happens to the empty school buildings and how does that affect property values in those towns? What happens to the high test scores of DCS students when added/averaged into that of others? These are all questions I would like answered, and I think most town members do as well. The token surveys are ridiculous, and I am very disappointed in the format of tonight’s meeting and so-called survey. I feel it is a way to generate the information you want and then be able to present a “solution”.*
 - ◆ *I answered no to attending a community event in the past 6 months, but the use of the elementary school for town meetings (two this year) is vitally important.*
 - ◆ *I appreciate ConVal dedicating the resources to conduct this study. As a parent of elementary school kids in one of the more rural towns in the district (Francestown), we value having the school close by when everything else in our lives seems to be ~30 minutes away. We worry about declining enrollment and class sizes (both our kids have 7 kids in their grades). Although I believe a recent study indicated that Francestown had some of the highest learning metrics/scores which may be correlated to the small class sizes, below a certain number the options for friends and interactions become very limited. We feel that the multi-age classrooms have been working well at FES, which may help address the issue. It's too bad that we are losing so many potential students to charter schools and homeschooling. Perhaps it would be beneficial to conduct outreach to these families, find out why they aren't participating in public schools, and see what changes, if any, could be made to address their concerns (you may already be doing this as part of this study). If we need to consolidate, it would be great if there were a way to have a contingency plan to reverse the decision and reoccupy the elementary schools if enrollment trends upward again, but I realize this may not be practical with needing to continue owning and maintaining the empty buildings. I look forward to attending the meetings and hearing what other ideas are being considered. Thanks!*
 - ◆ *I attended two large centralized rural school districts in northern New York State in the 1960s and 1970s. I think it actually helped in many ways to have local communities*

sharing one elementary school and a single 7 - 12 school. My graduating class had 85 students. Note: questions don't provide an option for childless couples who have never had a child in a school of any kind. A simple alternate "not applicable" choice on some of the questions would have allowed for a more accurate and honest answer. That said, I do believe in the value of strong well-funded local school systems. They benefit communities in many ways.

- ◆ I believe combining schools gives a better experience to the kids for extracurricular activities. Clearly the number of home schooled kids says something about our elementary school
- ◆ I believe Conval has done a great job thus far with involving the community and being transparent. I would love to see more community involvement in the school, and I believe that schools link small communities together. Thank you for a chance to voice our opinion.
- ◆ I believe in Conval and how we all fit together. All of our differences are unique and that is something to celebrate.
- ◆ I believe that condensing for the needs of the community would be best to utilize tax dollars more effectively such as paying more for current educators, or lessen the taxes in the town to promote younger generations to move here.
- ◆ I believe the district would greatly benefit from a curriculum coordinator at the elementary level, especially if 8 schools continue. There are significant discrepancies, upward of 35% differences, from town to town in proficiency levels in reading and math . There is a direct correlation between resource, town socioeconomic differences and overall risk factors and proficiency levels. Having the schools separated by town perpetuates this. I would be curious to dig into data of honors and AP level enrollment by town, over the past 5-10 years, to see where the students live and who have the opportunity to enroll in rigorous academics at the high school.

Historically the curriculum has been aligned through a same is equal method in effort to ensure all elementary students have been exposed to the same material. The students are coming into school at radically different levels of readiness. This can also be correlated to the needs of the town. If students remain in a homogeneously grouped environment with the same curriculum for the first 5-6 years of education, rather than identifying needs of specific students and building curriculum based on needs we potentially track students by town.

The curriculum and professional development needs must be addressed in a systematic way at the elementary level, regardless of in order for students to reach their fullest potential and have access to educational opportunities at the middle and high school.

Having multiple principal models over time at the elementary school has also been difficult. While this seems to have been a necessary solution to an unsustainable situation for 8 elementary schools, it also perpetuated constate changes in leadership where systems are difficult to build and sustain for all schools without elementary curriculum coordinators who help guide all aspects of Core curriculum and MTSS-B systems.

- ◆ I concerned that the community has not been educated by prismatic on the actual cost

of keeping the small schools and what students are truly missing . My opinion is that we have reached a situation where we are not able to staff the schools appropriately and safely. Special Ed services have been missed by many students while staff have had to attend to other behavioral crisis for years. Other support staff like nursing are at a critical point . We have so many students with medical needs across the district in elementary schools who deserve to have all the same services . This is proving to be almost impossible on staff!

- ◆ *I do not believe my child requires an IEP. I think the school is going after extra money.*
- ◆ *I do not have empirical data to demonstrate this, but anecdotally, it does seem as though there is inequity in middle school outcomes (stronger academic/social-emotional skills coming from the SMS pipeline). I don't claim to know what to do about it, but it's concerning.*
- ◆ *I do not think closing an elementary school will lower my taxes in any way. The school budget will never be less. They will never ask for less on the budget at voting time whether we close a school or not. This isn't the solution to proper conval budget management.*
- ◆ *I do wonder what the plan is to redistribute the students as some schools have an overpopulation. Is the cost of shutting the school down worth the savings with the new increase in bussing? What before/after school programs could go into place to help especially with possibly empty buildings?*
Conval needs to pay its teachers better as the quality of educators is very telling based off the low salaries compared to surrounding districts.
- ◆ *I don't have children attending ConVal anymore so I'm a bit out of touch. The biggest issue most of us care about is taxes always seem to go up. This will drive away people that want to live here with no children. The focus should be on what can be done to raise money for ConVal without putting more burden on residents. 70% of my town taxes are used to pay for ConVal. Close schools that are costing way to much money to maintain based on student enrollment.*
- ◆ *I don't think that closing elementary schools is the answer. The idea of pulling back 5th (and maybe 6th depending on space) to their respective elementary schools and combining the middle schools is a good idea in my opinion. This allows the smaller settings and the smaller communities to stay together, and then offers the middle school ages more opportunity. This is how Conant (jaffrey/rindge) is setup. I'm not sure how well the 7-12 works for them, though. I'd like to see the middle school remain separate from 9-12. This also allows us not to close buildings that have been recently built for each towns elementary school.*
- ◆ *I elected to take my children out of the Conval school system because of poor academic offerings.*
- ◆ *I feel that our experience at the Hancock School was a wonderful community feel. Great Brook is just a bigger community but still offers the close knit family feel. It offers wonderful extra curricular choices in and after school. I would hate to see that all go away.*
Having a charter school, multiple private schools k-8, and students home schooling has to make a difference in our #s. Has the board researched and learned why these

- students have chosen to not part of the ConVal school? Maybe there's answers there.
- ◆ *I feel this survey and process does not give room for discussion and for nuanced and creative ideas. I feel this whole process is biased with loaded and leading questions. I am very disappointed.*
 - ◆ *I feel very strongly that the best approach would be to bring grades 5 and 6 back to the elementary schools and create a grades 7-12 middle/high school. My K-12 schooling in a public school district in Maine followed this model and I was disappointed that it did not exist in the ConVal school district. It was wonderful only attending two schools over 13 years, and with 7 years at one school, and 6 years in another, it created a real sense of community in each school and a strong connection to the school. All of the schools were large enough to feel vibrant and offer a lot of resources/opportunities without being overly large. There were zero problems with having 10-12 year olds with the youngest elementary students, and 12-14 year olds with the high schoolers. The smallest one or two elementary schools may still need to be consolidated, but I think this K-6/7-12 model is the best overall solution to our current problem. The two middle schools and possibly one elementary school could close and save a lot of money while possibly only removing one (or maybe no) elementary schools from the individual towns.*
 - ◆ *I grew up in Hancock, started Hancock Elementary in [redacted] with 9 first graders. Then one moved. Part of the day, some second graders would come for a reading group. After that year, we were always in combined classes with either the grade below or above us. We loved this. My older sister's class could decide to go to PMS (now south meadow) or stay in Hancock for 6th grade. Then my year topped-out at 5th, my brother was end of Gen-X so start of a new baby boom and he never had combined classes and HES topped-out for him at 4th grade. Quit it with all the bunk admins. We had 1 teacher only including teaching principals. There was a travelling Title 1 aide. It was idyllic and we were well educated. I did the Extended Learning Program with kids from Greenfield and Bennington. One year I did a Fridays at PMS with the Peterborough ELP kids. It was great. 20 years ago I did marketing for a major Mass K-12 architecture firm in Boston. We already saw the backside of the baby bubble built into the demographics. You brought in slick firms to convince Hancock to destroy its gorgeous old high school for the soulless gray block. Move back to the old 4-room elementary school if you must, but don't leave towns without a school. [redacted] The towns won't recover losing a school. I send my kids to a charter school because of the crap you teach, but having a local elementary school was still a factor when I returned to NH.*
 - ◆ *I grew up in the area and attended ConVal. At the time, I lived in Frankestown. Having come from a private school out of town, it was very apparent the lack of programs for gifted children at FES and GBS. I actually really like the ideas of combining grades. Prior to attending FES, the school I attended had grades 2-4 all in the same class room with 2 teachers (a teacher and an aid). In a situation like this, it's quite possible and convenient enough to allow students to learn at whatever level they are already at. For an example: in second grade, I attended math with the 3rd graders. FES had no ability to accommodate something like this.*

Once I reached ConVal, it became quite apparent to me that GBS did not have the same resources as SMS. Now that I have a young child of my own, my husband and I are attempting to plan ahead and all of these changes will definitely impact our decision on where we send our daughter to school. Currently, we are leaning toward sending her to the Well, but for the moment, we would not move to a town that attends Greatbrook

- ◆ *I grew up with two grades, eventually three, in one classroom and received the highest education (long waiting list.) Good education does not depend on numbers but on EXCELLENT TEACHERS. PUT THE MONEY INTO ED. STAFF, NOT BUILDINGS. Also closing schools would save energy and resources.*
- ◆ *I have a friend in another district that would enroll her child at Conval if she was able.*
- ◆ *I have been through this situation in both my home school district and school district where I worked. It is painful and controversial, but the economics and learning needs of the students need to be most important.*
- ◆ *I have experience working with children re: mental health. I believe that too small classrooms can have a negative impact especially for a child who doesn't "fit" with his/her classmates. Very small schools also can have fewer resources, e.g school nurse, counselor, PE, art and music teachers as well as less opportunity for sports, band, chorus. For me it's not about the money but about the children.*
- ◆ *I have grandchildren in conval and care deeply about its future. I am working to help bring more young families to this town. But, we clearly need to consolidate.*
- ◆ *I have grandchildren in the district, raised my children in the district and I also attended. Spent 30 years working in the schools, now subbing. We need to make some changes. Top heavy admin needs to change, more pay for paras and subs to entice them to come. Adults need to take the reins and not leave it to the students.*
- ◆ *I have granddaughters who attend high school which they loved when they started but as juniors they tell me the atmosphere among students is toxic and seems disregarded by teachers and staff. For the first time they don't like going to school. I don't know what to suggest bc I don't know the roots of the problem.*
- ◆ *I have heard negative stories from parents of ConVal high school students about behavioral and safety issues at the school. I am currently not sure I want to send my children to ConVal for high school, and I know other parents who feel similarly. How can ConVal be innovative and progressive in addressing current mental health, social, and behavioral concerns presenting along high school students?
Separately—or maybe related—is the high school start time. Research on the benefits of later start times has been available for more than two decades. Currently a ConVal bus goes by my house at 6:15am; there is no way this is good for teens. A neighbor family drives their kid to school instead so he can get more sleep. ConVal should strongly consider implementing a later start time for the high school.*
- ◆ *I have only been seriously interacting with the district for just over 2 years now, but so far, I feel positively about the district's performance. No district will be perfect. I do think foreign language education is extremely important in navigating our world today and in the foreseeable future.*

- ◆ *I have witnessed a notable degree of variability in academic rigor (as well as social emotional support, support for neurodiversity, etc.), simply as it relates to individual differences in teachers. Greater availability and encouragement of researched based curriculum and continuing education as well as support for implementation i.e. mentors and learning communities across schools could help to reduce this.*
- ◆ *I haven't seen this yet, but it perhaps has already occurred. I'd like us to take a look at how the small towns around us (Lyndeborough, Mont Vernon, etc.) continue to support their small schools without threatening to close them. I'd also like there to be STRONG consideration for the many, many benefits to the small schools and how positive it has been for the children. Why couldn't extracurriculars be shared but the schools be left alone? Why not put more kids back into the smaller schools? Why not define what the need is to keep the schools operational and then outsource some of the planning/fundraising, etc.?*
- ◆ *I hope the SAU is able to provide residents of the district with more information during this phase of evaluation than survey results. It is difficult to have a thoughtful conversation with more information than just declining enrollment concerns. For instance, it would be useful to know the capacity and useful life of existing facilities, as compared to current and projected enrollment rates and current budgetary resources; it would be helpful to know how the schools compare to each other academically/student:teacher ratio/extracurricular/etc. from a more factual standpoint. I hope this study provides us with more information to have informed opinion. I'm not sure the answers in this survey will be reliable in gauging support based on the questions asked and how they were formulated.*
- ◆ *I like the idea of moving 5th and 6th graders back to elementary and then having a jr/sr high school 7-12.*
- ◆ *I personally went to a 2-school system. Elementary was k-6, and a combined junior/senior high. I feel like the junior/senior high was ideal, as it let us see what high school was like, and gave us access to all of the sports and academic opportunities the high school had.*
- ◆ *I pulled my children out of the conval schools because of the poor academics, lack of school spirit and community support as well as an inadequate athletic complex ti support year round training.*
- ◆ *I strongly believe that each town should have its own elementary school, even if it is small.*
- ◆ *I support adding schools when enrollment increases but we must do the opposite when enrollment declines. There is no longer a need for two middle schools and all the additional expenses associated with operating them.*
- ◆ *I think 9 towns is too much to bring together for high school. We live in furthest corner at one of last bus stops so to be involved in events and school things is costly in gas and time without considering activity fees and such*
- ◆ *I think certain towns could combine some of the elementary schools without a huge impact to bus travel times. My child goes to SMS and I love the school. I don't know much about Great Brooke.*
- ◆ *I think Conval's problems lie more in the lack of discipline and appropriate*

- consequences for bad behavior, and a mediocre academic program. Things like fighting and sexual assault are ignored, there is too much "on line" or screen generated education and not enough interaction between students and teachers.
- ◆ *I think elementary schools should be K-5 at minimum and middle schools 6-8.*
 - ◆ *I think keeping the youngest children closest to home and with the shortest bus rides is very important to their physical and mental health, and to their ability to learn.*
 - ◆ *I think relief from the effort, every few years, to close small elementary schools would improve the ConVal school district. Hosting events at our elementary schools that welcome the wider community might help keep support for these schools.*
 - ◆ *I think some schools need to consolidate for financial and logistical reasons but maintaining as many community schools as possible is best for each town.*
 - ◆ *I think that having schools in every town doesn't make sense. I think there should be 3 major schools within each district, and parents shouldn't have to pay extra if they don't live in the district to send their child there. I think having 1 elementary school in some towns is unnecessary we could use that space better, and having schools in towns that don't offer sports doesn't make sense either. For example: Greenfield elementary should go to Peterborough elementary. I think how the grades are set up per school is fine.*
 - ◆ *I think that the only thing I would say is that for busing, if there are not many kids on the bus, maybe a consolidation of buses, routes etc. or even having larger vans instead of large buses to help with gasoline costs.*
 - ◆ *I think the best solution is to close both middle schools, and make the local schools K-8. If Peterborough Elementary doesn't have room for K-8 then the 7 and 8 grades could be housed in a wing of the high school.*
 - ◆ *I think the primary concern of the school district should be offering a quality product. There are a lot of people in the area who actively choose alternative schools largely based on quality, not cost.*
 - ◆ *I think the school district should partner with businesses to brainstorm ways to utilize buildings that do not have many students. Small business opportunities? Technical opportunities for businesses and elementary children?*
 - ◆ *I think there should be forums that are not town specific. People in Peterborough are not worried about their schools closing. They will have very different input than those in the smaller towns. It would be educational for both small and larger towns to hear the feedback from the others.*
 - ◆ *I think we need to look at how to reduce transportation costs - by reducing the number of routes or spoke-ing routes across town lines. Social emotional and academic impacts all need to be taken into consideration.*
 - ◆ *I thought we voted to provide preschool and I thought there would be no charge to the participating families. We should do this.*
 - ◆ *I used to work in the district schools, combine Francestown and Bennington elementary, Temple to Peterborough, In favor of keeping 2 middle schools, but all 5th graders go to middle schools. Do not think there should only be one middle school.*
 - ◆ *I want my son who is now 3 to be able to go to a vocational school as I did to learn a trade.*

- ◆ *I went to school in the Boston area. I liked the grades separated as they were: Elementary 1-6; Junior High School: 7-9; High School 10-12. I believe that it's more age appropriate to have the grades separated in this manner. I think it's better to keep children in grade 8*
- ◆ *I went to school in the city and the grades were k to 6 middle school was 7-9 and high school was 10- 12*
- ◆ *I wish the inclusion of behaviorally challenged children (specifically elem level, although probably all grades) didn't create such a huge disruption to the learning of the kids that are ready to learn. I feel like these behaviours actually "steal" time/attention from the rest of the class.*
- ◆ *I wish this messaging was more focused on what respected, recognized educational research tells us about what will help kids learn best. I have no qualifications or background information to answer these questions other than my own experience & the experience of my kids. I'm trusting the school board and school administration to make decisions based on what widely accepted research in the field indicates is best for the education of kids. I feel like we are trying to reinvent the wheel here. What does educational research tell us about the MOST IMPORTANT things a kids needs in order to learn? Focusing primarily on dollars per student seems misguided to me. We all want excellent schools for all kids in all towns. My guess is that smaller & closer does not always equal better. Are test scores higher in the smaller schools of the district? Even if the scores are higher... do we know for certain that they are higher because of the size of the school? I don't know the research... but my gut tells me that a supported, engaging, qualified, & well-compensated teacher in a robust and rigorous community of learners will matter more to education outcomes than having a classroom within 3 miles of my home. Shift the messaging focus here to what respected research says is best for learning. I'm in support of closing grossly underutilized buildings & believe a good argument can be made for an improved educational experience & improved quality of the district overall. Let's get the most "bang for our buck" to benefit ALL kids.*
- ◆ *I wonder if we can restructure like having a junior high building like a 5-6 only and 7-8 only.*
- ◆ *I work for the [redacted] Library, for context. When we, as library staff, inquired about having a library event at the school, the proposed fees were too high. My limited experience is that if there high fees associated with even another town organization using the school, it may not be having the best utilization.*
- ◆ *I would consider moving the 5th or even 6th grade students back into the elementary schools and close one of the middle schools.*
- ◆ *I would like to request that all data collected be made transparent as well as the proposal from the consultant leading this analysis. If the results are compelling, the proposed approach will likely be more trusted by the community. Transparency is key and right now it really feels like the School Board is working to build a case to save money rather than improve educational experience and a sustainable community in each of the smaller towns.*
- ◆ *I would like to see the \$ allocated for HES playground to be used for that purpose.*

- ◆ *I would like to see the elementary schools stay open in each town. Unfortunately our State doesn't seem to value public education and the current (and past for many years) formula for funding places the burden on property owners. That needs to change. I agree we aren't attracting young families because they can't afford to live in our towns. I'm not sure what the answer is, but I would hate to see the elementary schools close.*
- ◆ *I would recommend that you solicit outside help to recreate a questionnaire that is less biased, and reflects the true underlying facts and opinions currently being discussed.*
- ◆ *I would strongly prefer that the district keep and maintain elementary schools in all towns. In the current era of school choice, we need to recognize that school choice is already built in to our district. I would like to see the district make it easier for district students to attend schools outside their town if they so choose. This already happens in the district, but it is not well known.*
- ◆ *I would suggest instead of cutting the schools the school board looks for additional revenue sources ie renting out the school on Sundays etc for additional revenue to the tax payers*
- ◆ *I would want to hear from our teaching staff about what they feel is the best sizes for classes at the different levels, taking into account that learning involves the intellect, the emotion and the social.*
If the building could be physically separated inside, perhaps combining the middle school with the high school would present a cost savings and would not involve too long of a bus ride for our middle school students - especially if the upper school students start later. This would also allow for middle school students who are academically advanced to take courses at the high school.
- ◆ *I'd like to see the arts enrichment program returned.*
- ◆ *I'm concerned that this process is a means to justify a decision to consolidate schools that is already the goal of the SAU. That said, I'm not totally opposed to considering consolidation, but want an open and honest dialogue. If feel that that hiring of an outside party was a poor allocation of resources that seems like a set up to create data that supports a specific narrative. The wording and ambiguity of many of the questions seems to support this suspicion which is unfortunate as does the request for my email for follow up surveys which makes this anonymous seem much less than anonymous...*
I support the district, always vote for the budget, but really!?
- ◆ *I'm just curious why you were not interested in whether survey participants had children who went though schools in the district.*
- ◆ *I'd like more context regarding the budget. It is difficult to understand what is being spent per student if we are unclear on how much goes toward sports vs. academics vs. music vs. art...etc. etc. Perhaps computers aren't as necessary, but more hands-on opportunities. It is hard to talk about money per student and budget without this perspective.*
- ◆ *I'd love to see all local elementary schools remain, but realize the financial stress is significant.*
- ◆ *If a child rides a bus for an hour now and going to a school in their town what would it*

- be like if they were sent to another town?*
- ◆ *If an elementary school should be closed it should be Peterborough Elementary and those students should be sent to the closest small town elementary school*
 - ◆ *If it turns out that the decision is to keep all the schools, why not close off part of each one and rent those rooms out to small businesses. This would produce income to offset costs.*
 - ◆ *If the decision is made to close some of the elementary schools, then the schools with the most sound structure and adequate size should be the ones that remain open, regardless of which town(s) they are located in. We should be looking at maintenance costs as our guide to making this decision.*
We should only have one middle school. There are too many inconsistencies between the our two middle schools and this has been a problem for many years.
 - ◆ *If the goal is to close smaller elementary schools... NOT ONLY will doing so conflict with the current "original" contract that every town will have it's own elementary school....how will those children be absorbed in the larger schools? There will be addl costs ie. transportation etc*
 - ◆ *If the other smaller towns refuse to give up their elementary schools due to low enrollment then Conval really should consider leaving the district. Or let those towns carry the extra tax burden of keeping their schools open. For a side note: While my children have graduated already, it has only been 2 years since they have graduated and this has very much been an issue since they were in Middle School. Also for the survey, you need a better plan to get the word out. Many did not even know there was a survey that needed to be filled out.*
 - ◆ *If the school board votes to close my local school down, I would strongly advocate for my town to withdraw from the Conval school district.*
 - ◆ *if the towns want their elementary schools to stay open they should step up and pay the difference*
 - ◆ *If there is any way for each town to keep its elementary school, that would be best. I do not favor combining middle school students with high school students. Maybe keep 1-5 in each town, have one middle school for 6-8?*
 - ◆ *If town residents don't have children in the ConVal school system; their town taxes should be lower.*
 - ◆ *If towns lose their elementary schools, young families with children will not buy houses in that town*
 - ◆ *If we are going to keep the little schools I think we should turn them into charter schools or magnet schools--each having a unique focus. I think people would support that in a way that would eliminate the Articles of Agreement.*
 - ◆ *If we are to save money by consolidating schools, I would like to see that money go back to taxpayers.*
 - ◆ *If we do not consolidate schools, then there should be some additional use in the other half of the buildings that aren't being used (community child day care, elderly daycare, emotional health services, etc.) to help off-set the costs. In addition, renting out the meeting rooms and multi purpose rooms after school hours to non-school groups to generate revenue. If we are going to keep the buildings, switch them all to lower cost*

- alternative energy sources.
- ◆ *If we want young people to live here we need child care supported by the town. Before school and after school as well.*
 - ◆ *If you reduce schools you need to increase resources for things like Pre K, across 8 schools you already have a long wait list for next year. Make it easier on parents to sign up for pre k as well and track their place in line*
 - ◆ *I'm a graduate of the ConVal school district and we had high hopes for it for our daughter, who is now 7. We tried a ConVal elementary school for one year (kindergarten) and while happy with her individual teacher, were so disappointed in the overall administrative approach and philosophy (from the Principal up to the Superintendent) that we decided to switch to private school. That disappointed included facing unnecessary barriers to volunteering in the classroom (even after COVID restrictions were lifted), limited outdoor time, overuse of screens, and ineffective approaches of dealing with children with behavior issues and special needs.*
 - ◆ *I'm happy with Conval, except the elementary schools, for the good of the students there needs to be a large enough group of students for learning and socializing. Restructuring could help.*
 - ◆ *I'm ok with reconfiguration of schools if it makes sense and provides better outcomes but my understanding is it's not a great savings to just close TES alone. I want to see creative options and a way for Temple residents to maintain access to the school building and have it be used!*
 - ◆ *Implement professional governance thereby decreasing the amount of administrative positions presently. Administration in this district is too large for the number of employees and students Also, need to stop contracting services... quality is just not there from what I can tell and contracted employees seem to not have the commitment to the organization.*
 - ◆ *improve by keeping schools in town not closing them.*
 - ◆ *Improve the excellence of the teaching staff. I went to public schools most of my life, and 2 years in a private high school. The private high school was FAR superior to the public school I attended. I would like that quality of education for everyone in public schools. Teach traditional core subjects rigorously and well. Hire intelligent and capable teachers. Public schools I went to (schools that were highly regarded) hired mediocre teachers. Attending a private school was a great eye-opener (which is why I strongly favor charter schools).*
 - ◆ *Improved athletic programs beginning at a young age. Improved behavioral intervention at an early stage. Better support for educators. More community involvement that actually has an impact on the outcome of things, not just voicing your opinion into open air with no action to follow.*
 - ◆ *In my experience, smaller neighborhood schools serve the community better than large schools.*
 - ◆ *Increase parent engagement opportunities like some parent education sessions and partnerships with community agencies and resources. Some families are really struggling and lack access to resources.*
 - ◆ *Instead of 7- 12 grades together I wonder about a different split such as*

PreK-3 (multiple campuses)

4-7 (multiple campuses)

8-12

- ◆ *Instead of possibly closing Francestown elementary school why not try to keep as many francestown kids in Francestown instead of moving them to the different middle and high schools. So if Francestown is kindergarten-5th grade maybe keep kids till 7th or 8th grade in Francestown before they go to conval highschool*
- ◆ *Instead of threatening to close all of the small schools in outlying towns, close PES and send kids to the school they live closest to.*
- ◆ *Institute a performance improvement plan for all Conval staff - deliver pay based on the achievements of teachers and not just test scores. Reduce overhead by having fewer administrators that do NOT teach.*
- ◆ *It amazes me that we are still starting at ground zero. I had hoped that analytics would have started with the last round of investigation could be brought up to date and develop viable alternatives at this point in time. You also should be looking at how much each school pays for nursing, extra curricular services per school per student enrollment. I do not agree with funding TRUST funds every year and then spending that money with a vote meeting at the end of the school year. This district should run as a business with transparency. The middle class retirees will be the next level of taxpayers to leave this expensive school tax structure. Some folks do not have to worry about "living on a budget" that looks like inflation riddled swiss cheese. I believe only tax paying citizens should have the RIGHT to vote/spend money. Peterborough's request for money via taxation always seems to be in favor, but I for one would never afford Rivermead and the ability to build on all the beautiful land that MacDowell controls/owns is just sad. I am not sure if the requirement of living in district for the management of ConVal S.D. should be re-instated or not. I often wonder if having a vested interest in the school district would impact its operation. Change is needed!*
- ◆ *It is hard to answer some of the questions unless one were in every school on a regular basis. Because of this many replies can only be made on preference to what one thinks. Without knowing exact numbers of students to teacher ratios and the amount each town pay's in taxes toward school funding it could make for an unbalanced opinion.*
- ◆ *It is important to consider the larger impact on a community if it loses its school - fewer young people moving to the town, value of housing, viability of community...A small town without a school can become a kind of retirement community, then losing young family support for the community and creating other costs to the community.*
- ◆ *It is more important to fund robust education AND extracurricular programs to consolidated schools than keeping low census schools open.*
- ◆ *It seems a bit of a farce that taxes would be lowered by cutting education--my sense is that is a false flag. The taxes are outrageous -- we do not know as two working adults without children if we can afford to stay here...our taxes on less than 4 acres of land are 10,000 per year. How can we afford that when we retire... husband blue-collar worker, I am a teacher. We can stay for now but not long. sad.*

- ◆ *It seems that the small towns are at the whim of the larger Peterborough when it comes to items being passed at voting time - in regards to school district items - and yet it impacts the small towns immensely.*
- ◆ *It should be priority of the school district to keep students in their town elementary school. If there is low enrollment extra space in the school could be rented out for business or other enterprises that will not conflict with student learning.*
- ◆ *It would be interesting to look at how many highly paid administrators there are. I hear complaints that there are too many. I have no idea if this is true but let's talk about the structure of the system as well as the schools.*
- ◆ *It would be terribly stupid to close any elementary school. We have had this discussion disrupt forward progress over and over again. Can we please stop this and move on?*
- ◆ *Its not all about money... A sense of community..*
- ◆ *I've lived in the Conval district since its implementation and before that. I believe strongly in local schools. But I also realize the burden of the current financial impact and the changing demographics.*
- ◆ *Just do something, we've already wasted too much money and just be honest, the schools do not have rigor and have steadily declined academically for the past 15 years*
- ◆ *Just keep extremist "parents" away from my child's education.*
- ◆ *K-6 in ALL elementary schools, a single middle school at SMS and pre-K in Frankestown*
- ◆ *K-7 school would be better than 5-12. Adolescents would have a chance to be mentors rather than be children in a school of young adults. Closing rural schools is detrimental to communities and makes it very hard on working parents. I have had children that graduated conval and had wonderful experiences*
- ◆ *Keep all elementary schools open K- 6, close both middle schools, high school 7-12*
- ◆ *Keep all elementary schools. Have one middle school, move 8th grade to the high school.*
- ◆ *Keep all elementary schools. Move the 5th and 6th graders to the elementary school. Close 1 or both middle schools.*
- ◆ *Keep all of the elementary schools.
Consider moving 5th grade back into schools. Consider charter schools or STEAM focused schools.*
- ◆ *Keep all the schools open*
- ◆ *keep class sizes small
pay teachers well*
- ◆ *Keep elementary school students through 5th grade at least.*
- ◆ *Keep improving the quality of the education as much as possible, enrich the students w culture and get them outside*
- ◆ *Keep it up, kiddo loves her school*
- ◆ *keep our public schools from privatizers under any guise.*
- ◆ *Keep schools open and demand that the State of New Hampshire pay the full amount per student that the district and its students are owed. Demand wealthy residents pay their fair share of taxes instead of putting the burden on working class homeowners.*
- ◆ *Keep social issues out of public schools*

- ◆ *Keep the elementary school in town! Perhaps reach out to wealthier residents who could help cover some expenses. If they can contribute to organizations such as Peterborough Players, then why not the Elementary School?*
- ◆ *Keep the elementary schools in the small towns, move grades 5-8 back to the town elementary schools. Send the high school students to Peterborough.*
- ◆ *Keep the elementary schools the way they are*
- ◆ *Keep the middle schools open and combine the elementary schools. Have Antrim and Bennington go to AES and the other towns go to Peterborough.*
- ◆ *Keep the schools open!!!!*
- ◆ *Keep these small elementary schools, please! They are magic. We moved here recently and my kids already feel a sense of community and belonging that they never in multiple years at past schools felt. They are safe, seen, and understood here. They are connected and feel like they can take risks and be fully, unabashedly themselves. They didn't before. That's the only way towards education. This is it.*
- ◆ *Keeping residents informed most important.*
- ◆ *later start hours for middle school and high school.*
- ◆ *later start time for high school; more outdoor time for all ages; choices for more challenging work for kids who are bored and want to be stretched academically*
- ◆ *Later starting time for Middle and High School.
Second language class for everyone*
- ◆ *Leave the elementary schools open*
- ◆ *Less administration. More staff in front of students.*
- ◆ *Less emphasis on sports. Important, yes, but 4+ days a week mandatory? C'mon!*
- ◆ *Less spending would be appreciated*
- ◆ *Let towns out of the district if the voters don't want to be in Conval.*
- ◆ *Listen and consult the community before making decisions that will or could affect our community. The covid situation in schools caused a mass exodus. Protocols parents objected to but had no recourse other than to homeschool, relocate or send to a charter caused low enrollment. No one asked us democratically about the funds that this consultation cost either.*

This time slot is absolutely unacceptable to get community feedback. It is highly biased towards taxpayers keeping costs down rather than parents which are clearly not representing their children here. Its overwhelmingly older people without kids in the schools. Look at the roster list! The parents with something worth hearing are at home feeding their kids and getting them ready for bed!!

- ◆ *Look at other options for keeping schools open. Send some PES students to other towns, etc. The district paid to build beautiful schools and they should be used. Keeping students in elementary schools is sound educational practice. Students can't participate in sports until later in middle school. The other activities could be managed by the smaller schools with more students there. Also, who decides which schools would possibly close???* *Unfair to have some open and some close. Why does Hancock get preschool and not others? Bennington is not that much bigger either. The small towns with fewer students pay more per student so we should all be allowed to keep*

our kids there. 50/50 tax split and now you are asking us to lose our schools????? Shameful. If that happens the rate should change back, and we all know that would never happen. IT'S YOUR JOB TO KEEP THINGS FAIR AND EQUITABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

- ◆ *Look at top heavy administrative costs. School population has dropped and administrative costs have risen significantly. This makes no sense. We have opportunity for fabulous small schools with outstanding education but are bogged down with overly paid top administrators, too many administrative staff, poorly paid teachers, lack of good educational leadership. Small schools need 1 principal per school to provide direction and leadership. Possibly look at having grades pre-school to grade 6 in the elementary schools and 7-12 at Conval. Maybe get rid of the middle schools rather than the local elementary schools. Until the spending is looked at as a whole by an outside/nonbiased source, it is hard to say what the best reconfiguration would be and make a recommendation for the most cost effective way to provide excellent education. The excellent education definitely will not come from the overly staffed SAU offices. Maybe the district as a whole is too big and needs to split apart.*
- ◆ *look at your administrative expense. seems like you have too many people in administrative positions. consider a reduction in money spent on programs not directly related to learning.*
- ◆ *Looking at trying to compare schools based on academic rigor and activities isn't the end all. Each of these towns has different socioeconomic bases that need to be taken into account when looking at what they need.*
- ◆ *LOW ENROLLMENT SEEMS TO BE A MAJOR PROBLEM. MORE MONEY NEEDS TO BE SPENT ON THE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AND LESS ON ADMINISTRATION. A TEACHERS JOB IS TO INSTILL INDEPENDENT THINKING NOT THE TEACHERS POLITICAL VIEWS.*
- ◆ *Lower taxes*
- ◆ *Lower the cost of salaries of certain teaching positions, benefits and SAU front office staff.*
- ◆ *Lower the operating costs of School District to lower property taxes better continuity with tax payers. Seems there is a divide now*
- ◆ *Maintain what you build. Don't expect drastic short term measures to work for the long term.*
- ◆ *Make a plan for the schools if they close, hopefully parents can buy into that.*
- ◆ *Make certain the district is right-sized for staff to be compliant with state reg's but eliminate truly unnecessary salaries and benefits*
- ◆ *Make school and other taxes like a lottery. By paying/filing your taxes you are automatically entered in a single winner program with a payout equal to the average property tax rate (everyone's tax bill would be raised by an amount equal to that (avg tax bill) divided by the number of taxable properties.*
- ◆ *Make sure CRT is not being taught*
- ◆ *Make sure the teachers are non-partisan, enthusiastic and good. There are solid duds in the schools now, I know. I believe the superintendent is one of the reasons we have a high turnover rate in educators.*
- ◆ *Make the cost to support it be <50% of my tax burden while not raising the overall tax level.*

- ◆ *Make the school available for a charter school for the region if it is to be re-purposed.*
- ◆ *Maybe hire a company that understands rural New England and our sense of community to help assess our particular needs. City folks don't get it, until they move here, then they love it!*
- ◆ *Merge middle and senior high under one roof. Repurpose middle school as housing, given the present crisis. If elementary are closed these too should become housing.*
- ◆ *Middle school is beneficial and should be kept. Some of the smaller elementary schools should be closed like FES and parents have the option to “permanently” transfer students to another elementary school open of their choice*
- ◆ *Money is not the only consideration here, although it is the guiding incentive for hiring the outside consultants, understandably. The quality of life that a local school provides ALL residents is as important as any other issue, finances included. Some of the questions we were asked on the survey were problematical for me, and appeared to be “leading questions”, which would automatically lead a reasonable answer to be in favor of consolidation. I am a homeowner, teacher, and a retired employee of the district. I do care about the budget -and efficient use of resources - but also feel that the state should be paying its share of the cost per pupil to unburden property tax payers, encourage young families to buy in our towns, and help to allow local schools to stay open. If NH supported its public schools more fully would that allow us to keep our 8 elementaries and both middle schools open?*
- ◆ *Money spent doesn't matter if there is a lack of housing in the area for teachers or if teachers don't get the support they need. The good teachers and the nice kids leave the school. The drugs are rampant, the state of kids mental health is extremely poor and it makes for a toxic learning environment. Pay the teachers enough to live on, bring in licensed mental health workers, let kids sleep longer in the morning so their brains work, and change the drug culture.*
- ◆ *more affordable housing in every town so more taxpayers can live here and properly fill the schools*
- ◆ *more and more, I am hearing from my middle schooler how the teachers are always upset, they cannot go to the bathroom and/or punishing all of the kids of a single incident. The ideas of how to punish these kids needs to be rethought and push out the teachers that no longer want to actually teach. Teaching is an art, not everyone has it. These kids can be cruel BUT they have to be teach without being angry.*
- ◆ *more communication and parent involvement at the middle and high school levels. Strong PTOS in the elementary schools make for a stronger community.*
- ◆ *More communication between the community and the school district*
- ◆ *More discipline and improved classroom control*
- ◆ *More dollars on education - teachers and resources - and less on administration.*
- ◆ *More emphasis on academics than sports*
- ◆ *More emphasis on the arts.*
- ◆ *More equity*
- ◆ *More focus on teachers and fewer Administrative personnel.*
- ◆ *More funding needs to get to Conval high school. They need to find a way to pay their teachers more competitive salaries to retain and gain better educators.*

- ◆ *More hands on and outdoor learning*
Life skills classes teaching money management, career counseling and sociology/ethics
- ◆ *More money doesn't solve problems. Creativity does. Letting great teachers do what's best for their students is part of that. Not keeping teachers who have demonstrated repeated failure to elevate their students capabilities is not. Top down dictatorial control is contrary to a good education. Shared principles dilute what could be effective leadership.*

Community involvement (passionate parents) should be incentivized to participate in the school. Parents in classrooms and leadership teams is effective. Cutting parents out of education (as was done during COVID) was terrible for the students and a disservice to teachers who can use more hands in the classroom.

- ◆ *more opportunities for engagement with residents who do not have children in the schools*
- ◆ *More outdoor time from K - 12. Many parts of Conval High School have no windows and use overhead florescent lighting in the classrooms which is not conducive to learning. It feels like Conval is not inclined to take learning outside and I wish that would change. Sun, fresh air and open environments do wonders for the brain and attention spans.*
- ◆ *more staffing, consistent expectations, training for new teachers from BCBA's on classroom management*
- ◆ *More support for teachers. It's always been a tough occupation, and it's only gotten more so with the pandemic and current political climate.*
- ◆ *More systematic and nurturing connections between people, groups, and organizations in the towns. In particular, mobilizing volunteers who are retired and have incredible talents, experiences, and skills to enrich the curriculum, classrooms, individual students, after-school programs, and to support our teachers. We are blessed with very talented retirees in every town.*
- ◆ *More transparency, better Administration*
- ◆ *Most of these questions here and in this room are focused on people with school aged kids. My oldest will attend kindergarten next year. I'm willing to pay more money in taxes to have an elementary here. It's very important to me. Also, these questions on the survey are biased or I lack any background info to make an informed decision. It would be helpful to have an N/A button too. I do thank you for the opportunity to provide input though!*
- ◆ *Move 5&6 back into every elementary school. Developmentally they are still elementary students. CLOSE Great Brook we don't need 2 middle schools. Move all 7-8 to SMS they will all be sent to Conval together anyway so why not move them in middle school which would be a better transition if they did 7th all together. Implement self contained special Ed classrooms throughout the district to meet the needs of IEP and 504 kids who disrupt regular Ed classes. That impacts learning every day and staff can't handle it. Also these behavioral kids, and kids with learning delays often find solidarity with students with similar struggles which can actually help them progress. They don't feel alone when they are with other kids similar to them instead*

of watching and comparing themselves to regular Ed kids.

[Redacted] PE teacher has the kids walking more than running. Have kids actually engage in full physical activity during PE each week. Stacking cups for the entire time or being inside on a beautiful day is ridiculous.

- ◆ *Move Temple into another neighboring district*
- ◆ *Moving the middle and high schools to a later start time- it is so difficult for students to get enough sleep when they have to get up at 5:30 or earlier just to catch the bus.*
- ◆ *My "undecided" indicate none of the choices fit, not that I do not have an opinion. Size of class and student learning depends on the topic and the students. Different extra curricular opportunities often indicate the passion of a staff member which may differ from school to school. The same basic curriculum may be taught using a variety of methods and should be because students learn in different ways. The two middle schools have worked hard to align curriculum. "People" need a variety of approaches to reach the same goal.*
- ◆ *My husband and I raised our children in the Conval district. They are grown now. I am a [redacted]. Our community schools are the heartbeat of the town. Family and community members gather for various events annually. In a community with an aging population we face the danger of becoming a ghost town region if we close our schools. People move here for the very reason of having a small community elementary school. Eliminating our elementary schools will remove the enticement of moving to this area. Move 5th and 6th grade back to elementary where they belong and consolidate the middle schools. This is the right thing to do to preserve our communities and our economy!*
- ◆ *My kids are grown, now in college. One of the greatest benefits to living in temple is the Elementary school. I don't see how anyone in their right mind would want a kindergartener-4th grade sitting on a Bus for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon.*
- ◆ *My nephew left SMS because the school could not meet the needs of his IEP. Now he is homeschooling and I think that is a shame.*
- ◆ *My son attended school in Hancock in nursery and Readiness- grade 3 before we moved. He made good friends there and employs two of them in his company today. I believe one of the hallmarks of strong American education is small local elementary schools. I am a retired college professor. If you don't learn to love to learn and to love to read, it is very hard to make it through college.*
- ◆ *My son came up through the Conval school district K through 12 [redacted]. He fought hard standing with fellow students and parents when at GBS holding signs encouraging voters not to close GBS as those select board members from Temple and Lawyer from Peterborough attempted to manipulate and force. The communities resoundingly spoke and voted to keep GBS from closure not once but twice. My son has supported the Conval district and still is a contributing member of the community about to graduate [redacted]. The Conval district has had a plethora of great teachers, mentors, administrators. At one time I felt that young kids shouldn't be bussed out of their local town because of their age. I felt that way about the middle school students being bussed on the same buses as HS students because of the age*

difference and behaviors. But now I see the other side of things having no kid sin the Conval school system. However, having gone through this same debate in 2014 saving GBS, if in fact the numbers dictate that consolidation needs to happen, I propose consolidation only of the elementary schools, and don't touch GBS or SMS. As previously stated: Temple, Sharon, Dublin to PES. Francestown, Greenfield, Bennington, to AES.

- ◆ *Need a large theater in the high school.*
- ◆ *Need to downsize, reduce the tax burden. Acknowledge that families today prefer educational choice, and not all will choose the public option. Why should those who chose alternative options effectively be taxed twice.*
- ◆ *Need to keep educating the community about finances and demographics.*
- ◆ *No raises for teachers they are high enough*
- ◆ *No town should be required to subsidize another in order for the other to keep a low enrollment elementary school.*
- ◆ *Offer Dave Ramsey course curriculum.*
- ◆ *Offer more competitive salaries for educators, not administration, to attract more staff here and to have them stay.*
- ◆ *Offer open enrollement from other towns. We know of several families in neighboring towns (New Ipswich/Greenville) who would prefer to drive their kids to Temple Elementary School instead of using their local district.*
Allow students in the district like Sharon / Peterborough to attend Temple Elementary School if they prefer smaller class sizes than Peterborough Elementary offers.
Pull 5th and maybe 6th grade back to the Elementary Schools and potentially combine all 7th & 8th into the High School (or the adjacent middle school).
- ◆ *Offer school of choice*
Implement language immersion schools in towns with low enrollment and open up to students from other towns
- ◆ *Offering pre-K in schools would help with enrollment and the child care crisis that this state currently has.*
- ◆ *Once we get rid of Edelblut, I hope we'll stop giving vouchers for private schools. I hope the state will also give districts more flexibility so that they can start their own charter experiments within the district so that innovation is easier to test and roll out to other schools as appropriate. This would help students seeking a different environment and also attract creative teachers. I think the district needs to better promote their absolutely amazing CTE facility and program. Can they make use of the facility in the summer, maybe for a different audience than high school?*
- ◆ *Open borders for parents to choose the school to send their child to if they are willing to drive them to and from school.*
- ◆ *Parental involvement is a key to quality education. ConVal has a track record of inviting parental involvement and then completely ignoring the advice. I served on a committee to review sex education programs where a number of parents spent hours revising the program only to have the administration completely scrap the whole program.*
- ◆ *Past reconfiguration proposals have always been based on saving money rather than*

student comfort and learning. Small towns are always targeted. Why not consider out of the box solutions like closing the biggest school and distributing its students to the smaller schools?

- ◆ *Pay our teachers fairly; consolidate our schools to a workable configuration; Increase state funding to lessen the taxpayer burden; stop unfunded mandates from the legislature as it interferes with the time administration and teachers can devote to students*
- ◆ *Pay people appropriately, from maintenance to paras to teachers, forget leadership because they'll make what they make regardless. But they do NOT make the schools in the same way that other people who genuinely, truly impact the students do.*
- ◆ *Pay teachers a lot more. Do not fund "charter" schools like Lionheart. Bus students in smaller vehicles (vans?) Teach more basic skills--personal finance, English grammar and spelling, and trades. Place equal emphasis on preparing students for work as well as for college.*
- ◆ *Pay teachers so they can live their jobs. Stop asking teachers to parent the children.*
- ◆ *Pay the teachers above the prevailing rates.*
- ◆ *Pay therapy staff a reasonable competitive rate. Our schools are only as good as their teachers AND supports.*

Example: The bargaining agreement lists COTA starting comp @ \$16.25 hr. Someone can literally make double down the road in Wilton(granted it's not currently a full time role). You can also walk into an intro level ABA job in many school districts and private agencies for \$20-25 an hour and being a COTA is a skilled job with legitimate healthcare training, testing, and state licensure where as an ABA role needs 40 hours of videos and a high five to qualify. Under \$22 starting isn't going to attract competent staffing and \$25 is a more reasonable start in 2023.

Reference Salem, NH bargaining agreement for reasonable competitive wage for position.

- ◆ *Pay your starting teachers better. Help solve the housing crisis do they have a place to live.*
- ◆ *Pay your teachers and cut administration overhead*
- ◆ *Payroll Cuts to the School Administrators*
- ◆ *Perhaps more training for teachers regarding ADHD and positive/connected discipline*
- ◆ *Perterborough middle and elementary schools always had more challenging curriculum than Bennington and Hancock*
- ◆ *PES is a fantastic school that could use a bit more guidance on play based methods and how to incorporate those aspects into the classrooms curriculum. Middle school needs more hands on work, handwriting practice, reading and play based curriculum would be very beneficial for their age group as well. It makes learning an experience while still covering all academic fields. Children learn tasks so much faster through play and hands on learning and there are multiple ways to implement these concepts in any/all schools.*
- ◆ *PES was a great place for our 27-year-old son to go to school. They had to add a fourth class each year for his age group because there were so many kids in that age cohort. After his age group passed to the next year, I believe they reduced to three classes*

again. Friends in Hancock, on the other hand, had tiny classes, and if their son didn't connect with the other two boys in his year, he was out of luck. Small class size can be great or painful, depending on the social dynamics and connection of the kids in each grade.

Combining kids from 2-3 smaller smaller towns might be a great solution—not too far from home, yet increasing numbers per year of students.

- ◆ Peterborough needs a third preschool classroom to keep numbers reasonable.
- ◆ Please change the start time for middle and high schoolers until later in the morning such as 8am or 8:30am!! This would benefit our kids academically and mental health-wise.

Add an orchestra option to middle and high school please.

More robust academic and extracurricular options for middle and high school.

- ◆ Please CONSOLIDATE and be wiser with the budget. If we SOLD 3-4 elementary buildings we would save \$, improve student experiences and have more opportunities for teacher collaboration. Also, the preschool program is instrumental for our families. If we had the whole preschool program in only two buildings (north and south) that would save time and money in many ways. But, early intervention & education is crucial for the future of our children.

We should also have the opportunity to replace the entire school board.

- ◆ Please do not close FES!!! There are several young families in town having babies who plan on going there (myself included)
- ◆ Please don't close the local elementary schools.
- ◆ Please don't make my 6-year-old get on a bus and travel at least 30 to 40 minutes early in the morning and in the early evening just to get to school and back for kindergarten. I will move out of town before I do that
- ◆ Please have later start times for older kids. Bring back the ski program to the middle school. Offer languages in the middle school. Bring back community service hours.
- ◆ Please make your RFP and proposed scope of your plan public. All of the questions I have answered so far make it seem like there is a definitive direction even though Prismatic keeps reminding citizens that there is no specific direction.
- ◆ Please think carefully before closing the small elementary schools. I think I giant connections exist between school & town, between old & young people within our towns, its churches, library & organizations, that our youngsters never forget because they didn't just live here before & after school—that this truly is THEIR town & they will continue care what happens here.
- ◆ Possible grade level schools combining several towns, such as the middle schools currently do.

Possible early childhood education at all elementary schools.

Possible charter (arts, STEM, environmental, etc) at some of the elementary schools.

- ◆ previously noted under alternate use of elementary schools, villages, to remain, viable need: (elementary) school, post office, policing, church (or comparable), store (or similar informal gathering place), town offices — probably in that order of priority

- ◆ *Prior to moving to Peterborough, I was an administrator in a merged rural school district in [redacted] that was also spread across 250 hilly square miles and it had over 2,000 students after years of declining enrollment. And instead of 8 elementary schools, there were two pre-K through 4th grade schools - one in the northern portion of the district and one in the southern end. There was one 5th - 8th grade middle school and one 9th - 12th grade high school. The district was thriving. I believe there are no good reasons why Conval, with even less students, can't be successfully configured the same way.*
- ◆ *Property taxes are too high*
- ◆ *Property taxes need to be lowered. We are needing to move because taxes are too high to afford to live here in future if they are not significantly lower. My children attended Conval schools, from elementary to middle to high school, and reorganizing and restructuring schools would be beneficial. I do believe that certain extremely small populations of students currently attending elementary schools in perhaps wealthier towns with more pull or power to continue this trend is not equitable, and with reorganization and compromise, all students might be afforded a better and more equitable educational experience while decreasing costs per pupil.*
- ◆ *Provide the Data and Research that is informing these questions to add context.*
- ◆ *Provided that the district does not spend the entirety of savings as a result of closing schools, it would be favorable. Taxpayers are looking for relief.*
- ◆ *Publish enrollment by school & grade the annual school report.*
- ◆ *Push 5 & 6 back to elementary school, close the 2 smallest elementary schools and close the middle schools - push 7& 8 up to the high school. Too many schools!!! Need some efficiencies.*
- ◆ *Put 5th in elementary, maybe Consolidate gbs, sms, close smallest schools, money for teachers and additional staff!*
- ◆ *Put preschools in all of the Elementary Schools.
Offer use of the buildings for before and after-school child care.
Stop wasting money. The school board has been told on voting day, numerous times that the towns do not want their schools closed, yet they continue to waste taxpayer dollars on trying to figure out how to close them.*
- ◆ *Put the teachers back in the lunch rooms, play grounds but because of their union you most likely can't. Take away the cell phones.*
- ◆ *Quit pouring \$\$\$ into charter schools*
- ◆ *Raise academic standards for the same budget.
Insist that teachers' professional days be taken during summer months.
Increase the number of annual school days to 200.*
- ◆ *Reach out to community members besides parents to become involved with the schools.*
- ◆ *reading writing and math.*
- ◆ *Reassess how many paraprofessionals are needed at the high school level.*
- ◆ *Receive much better state support!*
- ◆ *Redefine bullying and stop the practice of letting it go.*
- ◆ *Redistrict grades k-6 to elementary schools and consolidate middle school if closing*

- some elementary schools is not feasible.*
- ◆ *Reduce admin staff, close middle schools*
 - ◆ *Reduce administrative costs*
 - ◆ *Reduce administrative overhead costs.*
 - ◆ *Reduce administrative personnel*
 - ◆ *Reduce administrators, combine middle and high school.*
 - ◆ *Reduce Conval admin. Divert resources to non-Conval educational opportunities, like vouchers.*
 - ◆ *Reduce cost to make it possible for seniors to live here. The Schools have put a real burden on us.*
 - ◆ *Reduce number of schools, increase number of students per classroom. Young people like larger, not smaller, class sizes. Reduce administrative overhead,*
 - ◆ *Reduce numbers and salaries of SAU. Too Heavy!*
 - ◆ *Reduce the administrators, they continue to add costs with little benefit. We cannot keep inflating the administrative roles for the sake of education.*
 - ◆ *Reducing property tax burden is important and consolidating schools makes sense due to declining enrollment. Doing nothing and continuing status quo doesn't make sense.*
 - ◆ *Re-evaluate SAU staffing to assess potential for efficiencies at that level. In other words, ensure the analysis encompasses all staffing and services (IT, HR, Maintenance, Food Service, etc.), not just the individual schools.*
 - ◆ *regionalization is the way to go*
 - ◆ *Regular communication to the community about what's going on at the schools.*
 - ◆ *Remote learning has many benefits*
 - ◆ *Remote learning should be a part of this equation. Buildings should be reduced in number and size.*
 - ◆ *Removing a school from a community is not helpful.*
 - ◆ *Restructure the entire system. Private schools only. If you have a student you pay what it costs.*
- Schools should not be payed for by taxation!*
- ◆ *Revise the taxation system so the state pays for its share of school costs even if that means an income tax as a way to lessen property taxes.*
 - ◆ *Salaries of SAU staff are high while teacher pay is average or slightly low*
 - ◆ *School choice! That will tell you if the ublic school is good or not. Conval is the worst!*
 - ◆ *school closing should be based on a % of max enrollment not an arbitrary cap*
 - ◆ *School Leaders MUST better support teachers! Bring back behavior standards!*
- Teachers deserve kids and parents respect. They shouldn't need to spend time and energy with political noise! It has evolved to a state of despair and apathy. This is a leadership issue. I am a management consultant- and help change these patterns in organizations regularly. I know many Conval parents and staff and come from a family of educators. This issue should be boiled down to a set of options that are fiscally sound and documented for broad understanding. Not typical consultant/legalese. I'd even volunteer to assist.*
- ◆ *School starting at 9:00am.*
 - ◆ *schools must be closed before the cost to educate 10 children in one building becomes*

- the source of excessive taxes.*
- ◆ *Schools need to stay in the towns. The only way to offset it would be significant property tax reductions with public audits to see where the money is actually going.*
 - ◆ *Share research about the impact of multiple age groups learning in the same classroom on learning and the impact socially of going to tiny schools.*
 - ◆ *should consider dissolving the district and giving families choices and tuition to attend area schools (public and private)*
 - ◆ *Since articles of agreement will unlikely be voted on by smaller towns to close a town elementary school I would like to see closing 1 middle school occur and then require all 5th and/or 6th grade students back to elementary schools.*
 - ◆ *Since I am married to a lifetime Francestown resident I can say that this school was way over built for this town. There are many families in town that choose to home school or send their children to private school. These employees can be transferred to another elementary school and the school should be closed. They dont even use half of the space from what I have been told.*
 - ◆ *Small classroom sizes have helped my children greatly.*
 - ◆ *Small consolidations would help (ex. bringing Francistown/Bennington children to Greenfield) with kids having more social interactions with a more diverse population of children. One large school would be too much and would take away from the benefits of small schools and class sizes.*
 - ◆ *Small schools are key attractors for families and benefit all. I moved to Temple for the small school and there are great benefits to the local*
 - ◆ *Small schools that share staff (rotating specialists) don't let kids develop the same connection with staff and curriculum the way that fully staffed schools can consistently provide. I think that is detrimental to the kids who live for specials (art, music, library, and wellness).*
 - ◆ *Smaller class size is important.*
 - ◆ *smaller class sizes*
increase teacher pay
later start time for high school
 - ◆ *SMS physically is a dump. One of the highest priorities in the district should be building a new middle school.*
 - ◆ *So many parents are homeschooling let parents who homeschool have a percentage of a tax reduction so they can use that money for there child or there childrens education.*
 - ◆ *Some elementary school have a high cost per student and extremely low rating. It is time to put the quality of the education over false convenience. It is also time to think about the tax payer. How much more can they afford and continue to live in the area.*
 - ◆ *Some of the questions seemed to me to be leading in nature. I think a clear statement of what the problems that need to be solved are should be at the beginning of the survey. If it is low enrollment than you should say what the current enrollment is in each elementary school is, what it would be if older kids were moved back, and what the current costs per student is in each school. If this survey is indicative of the thoroughness of what this contractor will do for Conval then I would say we should*

- save our money and put it to keeping the schools open.
- ◆ *Some of the schools need to be combined.*
 - ◆ *Some of these questions are unfair because we do not have children in the elementary school but we do have 6 grandchildren with whom we are very involved.*
 - ◆ *Some of these questions should have a does not apply choice. Think outside the box to fund each town school. Smaller class sizes are better for learning. Pay the teachers well so they can afford to live here.*
 - ◆ *Some of these questions you didn't have the option to provide a desired answer..the quality and rigor of schooling is continuing to decline. The curriculum and values in the basics education standards are appalling students are leaving with mediocre or poor reading writing and math skills as well as life skills the only students receiving benefit are the honor or IEP students. The majority is merely sliding through the system. More counselors .. psychologists and support staff are needed and opportunities or requirements for extra support and tutoring should be provided.*
 - ◆ *Sometimes the football field lights are on when there is no game. This is awful light pollution and a waste of money. Also, Games should be scheduled during the day to avoid the cost of these bright lights.*
 - ◆ *Speand MORE on things that matter. Arts, science, research, travel, and immersion. Add a required internship component sophomore year to connect kids with opportunities and inspire them to make their last years useful. More sharing activities, like the showcase at ConVal (pre COVID) that showed kids their work mattered. EVERY kid needs to be given leadership opportunities and not just the same kids over and over. MORE money for guidance. Let the teachers focus on academics. Less making a behavior rule and applying it randomly.*
 - ◆ *Spend money and energy to engage with the community and boost enrollment. You are having the wrong conversation. Consolidating is a last ditch measure. Show people that public education is safe, fight their misconceptions, and win back their trust. I'd also like them to demand hard data from you, prismatic, on all of your conclusions. I was not at all impressed with the engagement of our town. Your questions, and stations were belittling. You too could do a better job of outreach to get feedback from the town. Spending only a day in each town is inadequate to forming an understanding around each schools function and importance.*
 - ◆ *Standardized tests are not evil. Teach to them if necessary and do well. The community desires for empirical performance metrics, not "edu-speak" especially external data.*
 - ◆ *Start at the top. The SAU has grown over the last 10 years. Put your \$54 million budget into hiring competent and certified staff who work directly with the students.*
 - ◆ *Stop focusing on parent happiness and money and take care of your staff and students*
 - ◆ *Stop having middle school and high school students on the same busses. Change from town only busses to location based pickup. My child Ms child is picked up 1+ hour before school starts and has to swap busses on order to get to and from school. Swapping busses is ridiculous!!!*
 - ◆ *Stop increasing the school budget, which increases taxes. Stop retaining funds not used during the year. Stop hiring new staff during the year to have reason to increase*

- the budget. Stop threatening reduction of services to keep increased taxes. Stop creating new administrative staff positions.*
- ◆ *Stop political agenda in an environment for our children*
 - ◆ *Stop the aggressive spending, Get the administration under control. TEACH, DO NOT SPREAD YOUR PERSONAL AGENDA. Keep politics out of the school. Support ALL students but do not push the BS on everyone.*
 - ◆ *Stop the spending, blue collar jobs are the future. Try harder to bring back the trades programs... locally not in new ipswich or Nashua.*
 - ◆ *Stop the trans gender BS!! Kids do not need to be indoctrinated about sexual issues*
 - ◆ *Stop threatening to close the elementary schools. If numbers are so important..send the town's fifth and sixth grade students back to their own town.*
 - ◆ *Stop using taxpayer \$ for private/religious/home schooling!*
 - ◆ *Stop wasting money*
 - ◆ *Stop wasting money by coding students as disabled so you can justify hiring more teachers and aids... and for christ sake, half my taxes goto school and then you have the gall to stick out your hand if I want to watch a football game.*
 - ◆ *stop wasting tax dollars by paying this consulting firm to change something we don't want changed, and have told you that many times over the years.*
 - ◆ *Stop worrying about gender, identification, and worry about teaching these children academics,*
 - ◆ *stricter standards. In the 17 years we have lived here the schools have gotten progressively worst. I was happy when my children were finished in the school district*
 - ◆ *Student population has dropped by 1,000 students over the years, but the SAU/ administrative staff continues to grow. When is someone going to look at the top to make cuts and reductions. We automatically jump to cutting schools. Start with cutting administration and operating budget. I've heard from some familiar with the district that you could easily cut \$5 to \$8 million from the operating budget and have little to no impact. Someone needs to do a deep dive into operating expenses. I would argue the School Board should do that, unfortunately nowadays it seems School Board representatives no longer represent the towns from which they come. They used to be the Town's representative to the School Board. Now they refer to themselves as School Board Representative from a town. the School Board should be holding the Administration in check, that does not appear to be happening at ConVal.*
 - ◆ *Students are all individuals. Some will thrive in a very small, local setting while others will thrive best in a big school. There's no one answer to "what's best for students" - it's not a helpful question. Cost per student IS central as school taxes are burdensome for many.*
 - ◆ *Students do not need the absolute latest and most expensive equipment to learn. Also, parents of school age children should bear more of the cost of public education than fixed income retirees.*
 - ◆ *Students need a cohort. They are more likely to have that cohort within a larger school community. Small schools can't offer this.*
 - ◆ *Study successful school districts in NH and compare ConVal's performance and operations with them.*

- ◆ *Tax in Temple are going in the wrong direction - we pay more in property tax then we did in Bedford NH -- around \$1500 cheaper in Bedford NH.*
- ◆ *Tax payers have stated many times that community schools are an important and valued area of small town culture. Listen to the people and Stop trying to close them. Don't waste more taxpayer dollars to find out what we have already heard. Find another way to save money. School vouchers and the states inability to be fiscally responsible make things difficult and unfair. But let's find a way to maintain some of the best parts of our district. Small schools are like hidden gems and should be cherished.*
- ◆ *Tax payers support the budget. Therefore they support having a school in each town. If they were to do anything, combine middle schools and bring 5th and maybe 6th back to elementary.*
- ◆ *Teach kids cursive and stop teaching them to be liberals*
- ◆ *Teach life skills not just to take a test, learn how each child learns and teach to that. Stop assuming everyone learns the same way. Teach children to think for themselves. Homework should be for if a student is struggling with a concept it should not be mandatory for the children who clearly understand the material. Take bullying seriously.*
- ◆ *Teach the students there are only two genders exist (Science) to pro-create as with all species, and stop teaching them that it's ok to act like a cat or something they are NOT! That would be a mental issue and should be treated as such...*
- ◆ *Teacher pay really needs to be increased. This area is a challenge to afford on such low wages. We will continue to lose teachers, as they simply can't afford to live and teach here. Not when other districts can pay higher wages.*
- ◆ *Teachers need to make enough money to be attracted to the job. A lot of teachers have to get a second job to make the ends meet if they work in our district and it's just not worth it.*
Bigger classes really need a paraeducator paired with each classroom. There's too many different learning levels in big groups that there is always somebody not getting the support they need. Students are often neglecting their own work because of distraction or because their classmates needs are greater.
- ◆ *Teachers/paraprofessionals in closed schools could be used in open schools to give extra help to special students. A plus for the extra help and as no one loses their jobs.*
- ◆ *Tell us how the ConVal students do compared with other, similar schools.*
- ◆ *Temple Elementary School is an absolute treasure. With 3 young elementary aged children of anything about the school were to change I would most likely move out of district.*
- ◆ *Thank you for finally taking concrete steps towards solving this long-standing issue.*
- ◆ *The administration and school board has shown a distinct lack of concern for the cost of education in the district. We need fewer schools, fewer administrators, and use the savings to better compensate teachers and relieve the tax burden on the towns.*
- ◆ *The admistration costs have risen dramatically even though there are approximately 1,000 less students. Work on cutting the budget*
- ◆ *the best resource are the teachers - they need good pay and benefits.*

- ◆ *The community needs to be educated on that smaller class size does not mean better education experience. Hiring the best teachers is what will influence children's education the most.*
- ◆ *The consolidated district plan is flawed. Each community should pay the allocated cost for their students irregardless of which school they attend. This would help to ensure that all of the taxpayers were treated equally.*
- ◆ *The constantly-increasing number of administrators while at the same time we have a decreasing student population is absurd. Fire half of them, put the money towards actual education.*
- ◆ *The ConVal school district and their teachers are doing a great job. I understand the difficulties and support whatever is decided. Education for my kids are of the highest concern! I wouldn't want less funding but would support more*
- ◆ *The Conval school system is too expensive for the quality of the education (60% reading proficiency, 36% math proficiency, 37% science proficiency), and not sure if just consolidating schools would achieve adequate cost savings while ensuring kids are adequately educated. What else is on the table to improve outcomes? I think I need more information to answer questions as effectively as possible, and will attend the event on October 5th.*
- ◆ *The conversation around school enrollment should include a conversation about zoning reform and the opportunities to increase enrollment and limit closures*
- ◆ *The cost per student needs to be reasonable, especially for the overwhelming population of tax payers who don't have kids in the district.*
- ◆ *The current model is not sustainable. We can't continue to pay exorbitant taxes to maintain this model. Regardless of what happens as a result of this process, if you do nothing, this problem will still be real.*
- ◆ *The curriculum should be set the same for each class in all of Conval's schools. If the program is not being followed by the teacher, then they should be held accountable for the outcome. Tenure or not.*
- ◆ *the discussion should not be about class size even though the 'bean counters' need to consider this. Education is the fundamental necessity for our entire nations success. Money is just one factor in the calculus, it must not be the first and last. Having experienced both large (top ten in the country) school districts and small (here), small is undoubtedly more productive and supportive of strong education. Small classrooms is a wonderful thing we should be cherishing, not considering for elimination.*
- ◆ *The district is too large.*
- ◆ *The district needs a new superintendent!! Close the elementary schools, meanwhile, hire a new principal at [redacted] !!*
- ◆ *The health of the local communities is about more than schools and about more than costs. Among other characteristics, what distinguishes is that small kids can walk to school. Even for those of us who are older, a feeling of community warmth includes seeing kids walk to school.*
- ◆ *The inequality in the educational opportunities offered between the schools is glaring. I don't feel like the majority of the school board cares about any school other than the high school, SMS, and PES. That culture needs to change.*

In terms of restructuring I think Temple and Frankestown should consider closing and possibly consider joining another SAU based on their geographical locations. Use that money saved to better support the remaining schools both in terms of behavioral/mental health needs and enriched academic opportunities.

- ◆ *The local elementary schools are an asset for those towns.*
- ◆ *The math department in the high school was seriously lacking when my child went there.*
- ◆ *The measure that will make your decision clearer is: What fraction of the school board budget goes to buildings and administration? Our buildings costs are out of sight per student. What is normal for these costs, and compared to teachers salaries, for example? How about huge savings on buildings shared between teachers and taxpayers? Also, if local schools are kept, which I am not opposed other than the building costs, then right-size the schools. Stop heating old drafty empty buildings, just please stop.*
- ◆ *The opportunities in larger schools with class size around 15 more than offset staying local.*
- ◆ *The problem is using property taxes to fund schools. That is what leads to the inequities. How do other states fund their schools?*
- ◆ *The purpose of a school is to provide a good, solid education that should include some phys ed. The amount of money spent on sports is outrageous, and this is where budget cuts should occur. Students end up spending far too much time and energy on sports that could be spent studying and preparing for life/work/etc. Sports is just one reason why the level of education in this country has been decreasing.*
- ◆ *The questions in some sections will have skewed results (like the Special ed Question), which assumed I had children. Other sections should have had an NA also. Some of the questions were leading and also result in skewed results.*
- ◆ *The School Board members should more frequently visit the public schools in the towns they represent; work to repeal the charter school laws as the charter schools seem resolutely determined to suck resources from the public schools.*
- ◆ *The school board needs to ask themselves why so many families turn to charter schools and private schools in the area. This area has more alternative school options anywhere else in the state. It also doesn't help that these small towns like Dublin have limited housing options available. Closing schools is not beneficial in the long term. My older children went to PES for elementary school and we hated how crowded it was. We looked at sending them to a smaller private school but decided to move to Dublin instead because of the smaller elementary school that was available and it turned out to be the absolute best decision we made.*
- ◆ *the school board needs to stop promoting savings through consolidation when they still (after many years of asking) CANNOT provide figures for what it costs to run each school and how consolidation would impact that figure. No models are presented, no data, no figures. This is a business of educating young people, the people in the SAU should be able to split out costs to be roughly accurate. ConVal has GREAT teachers.*
- ◆ *The school district should not be afraid to mix elementary schools from towns that*

may not attend middle school with. Big cities often have children attend elementary with kids that they don't go to middle school with based on school districts and that is ok!

- ◆ *The school system operates very well the way it is. I have no complaints.*
- ◆ *The school taxes are so expensive. We need them cut!*
- ◆ *The semi-regular agenda to close our schools needs to be taken off the table. We want our kids to have schools in their home towns. Small schools are the most ideal way to raise and educate connected happy kids. We have a great opportunity to help kids thrive and become fantastic adults who help our communities in the future as productive adults.*

The district admins, should fight for funding from Concord and Feds, stop hiring consultants and look at administration overlapping work areas to save resources.

- ◆ *The strength of the school district depends on having consistent, well-regarded schools at all levels. Teacher turnover has been high, and many families home school, which indicates a lack of faith in the system. Consolidating schools and eliminating local options will further undermine that confidence and weaken the system as a whole.*
- ◆ *The surveys questions were worded in a misleading way. Not enough information provided to accurately answer questions.*
- ◆ *There are several questions that should be left up to the teachers- like what size classroom or achool is too small, or if the classrooms should be mixed age- we expect the admin and teachers to make evidenced-based decisions on these topics and that THEY as experts in education know what is in the best interest of their students based on the staffing resources they have*
- ◆ *There are too many administrators. Their salary and benefits make up an unreasonable amount of our total budget considering the number of students in the schools.*
- ◆ *There is a lack of quality preschools in our district and really think we should consider expanding the first friends model to some of our lower numbers elementary schools.*
- ◆ *There is inadequate focus on academic rigor, and hopelessly inadequate focus on student behavior.*
- ◆ *There is not a simple formula that all 9 towns can follow here. Different things will work at different schools. One of the key things for each town to move toward positive age growth is to have resources such as elementary schools that build community. The financial cost of this cannot be assessed and our towns will die if without emphasis on these schools.*
- ◆ *There is well-established research that demonstrates travel distance can have a substantial negative impact on student performance and this makes intuitive sense. The more time spent traveling means less time for students to unwind, devote to coursework, spend time with family, etc. In addition, parents are less likely to be involved with their student's education..., especially considering consolidated schools are likely to be located in towns with higher median incomes. Peterborough's median income is approx \$101,000 whereas Antrim's is approx \$68,000..., a 65% difference. Socioeconomic status alone means that students in outlying towns are already*

entering the school system at a disadvantage. The inequity adds up fast when combining this with long commutes, less parental participation, less opportunity for after-school participation, etc. Yes, we have one centrally located high school, but by this time, most kids are starting to drive themselves and will already have a good foundation to work from.

The second point that I think is important to make is that the choice of private and/or charter schools is often more of a fundamental disagreement with how public schools educate their students. This could include politics, sex/gender education, traditional or alternative learning strategies, socioeconomic status, etc. Lionheart was not founded on the basis that Conval's education was poor, but rather that Lionheart would offer a more traditional/conservative approach to education. Consolidating schools will not change these fundamental disagreements with educational strategy and often the choice to send kids to private/charter schools is made without their child ever having attended any Conval school. I think it's disingenuous to say charter and public school selection is a response to inadequate education in the Conval district.

- ◆ *There needs to be reasons for the graduates to stay. To grow their families here. To fill the schools!*
- ◆ *there should be a detailed audit of how money is being spent within the Conval school district, to make sure that there is no waste, no excesses. that should be shared with the public. In the past too much money has gone to projects that only benefit a few, such as sports, rather than spreading the money around to offer better education and a variety of extracurricular activities.*
these types of survey questions should always have an option for "other". Many of your questions were difficult to answer accurately. answers are rarely yes or no, and gathering the finer details will make your data much more accurate.
- ◆ *There should be multiple grade classes do that a pupil is not stuck with same students in class year to year. The survey should ask respondents if they are parents of former now graduated Conval students. A serious omission in my opinion.*
- ◆ *there should be no state funding of charter or special schools. If all funding was applied to public schools the funding issues would be better addressed.*
- ◆ *There should be one middle school for the district, with a newer, larger, more accessible school built on the current footprint of South Meadow School in Peterborough. Furthermore, there should be two elementary schools (grades 1-4) for the district; Great Brook School in Antrim should be repurposed to function as the elementary school for Antrim, Bennington, Frankestown, and Hancock, while a new facility should be constructed in Peterborough to function as the elementary school for Dublin, Greenfield, Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple. There should be two Pre-K/Kindergartens for the district, with the current Antrim Elementary School repurposed to serve as Pre-K/Kindergarten for the towns of Antrim, Bennington, Frankestown, and Hancock, while the current Peterborough Elementary School should be repurposed to serve as the Pre-K/Kindergarten for Dublin, Greenfield, Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple.*
- ◆ *There was no option to indicate that since I currently have no children in the CVSD, I*

obviously have no kids with IEPs...

- ◆ *They need to stop spending money in an irresponsible manner.*
- ◆ *Thinking "outside of the box" about the declining enrollment in our schools: an engaged, educationally solid superintendent makes a difference. There was such an enrollment spike in the late 80s/90s with families moving into the district because of the school system. Regrettably a less than satisfactory superintendent caused families to pull their children out of the public schools - for private schools and home schooling. The current attention on the education system in NH (See the Boston Globe magazine article on October 1st, 2023) may be a factor on where families choose to move. Especially people who do not want a clone of the educational systems in Florida/ Texas. Again, it makes a difference as to whether those at the helm at the state level are educators !*
- ◆ *This area is forcing young families to move out. I grew up in Peterborough and went to the schools here but I'm constantly hearing about families leaving because it's just too expensive. I think closing a few of the lower populated elementary schools is more than overdue. I graduated with a class of 295ish in 2009 and ConVal enrollment has just been declining ever since*
- ◆ *This is not innovative. Why is tax payer money being spent to try to close schools again? If the district is worried about enrollment, why aren't you reaching out to families that home school to find out why they do so?*
- ◆ *This issue has been studied and debated for ever. Stop procrastinating and fix it. These studies are not cheap.*
- ◆ *This may not be the appropriate place for this particular comment, but anyway... My family does not eat meat. We are semi-vegetarian as we do eat dairy, fish, and eggs. Since the school meals provider always has two choices for lunch, I think that one of the choices should be meatless. It would be a very small change that would be so helpful for families who don't want to eat meat. (This applies more to the elementary and middle schools as the high school does have more lunch choices than whatever is the menu selection on any given day)*
- ◆ *This questioner is setup to provide bias in the responses, there is no basis to provide an educated answer for a lot of these questions... as an example: a school should be closed if it has less than 25, 50, 75, or 100 students... DEPENDS ON THE SCHOOL there isn't a blanket answer for all schools... If the school is already set up to function efficiently for 25 students, then it doesn't make sense to make a hard black and white cut off number... If the results of the survey were taken and used to make changes the changes may make no actual sense for the specific situation and/or the specific school...*
- ◆ *This school district assessment is an important action step. As Frank Edelblut and Governor Sanunu have systematically shifted public education funding to relatively unregulated "private" schools enrollment has increased significantly more than average attrition rates. VERY FRUSTRATING! And probably nothing you can do about but I hope you or the school board will use these results to advocate at the state level.*
- ◆ *This survey gauges attitudes in the abstract mostly and unfortunately provides no actual data to consider. No way to sense type/breadth/depth of data and analysis*

being undertaken. We are still in a transitional post Covid moment. Make sure the demographic analysis is adequately detailed. E.g, how many school age children overall are there/have there been/are there projected to be district and town wide? How many drawn off to private school at each age cohort? Etc.

- ◆ *This survey is an obvious “push poll”. You have left out questions that would illicit the survey taker to frame their answers to consider the advantages of having an elementary school that provides educational opportunities close to home, in an intimate setting.*
- ◆ *This survey was written in a somewhat slanted way which may affect the results and limit usefulness.*
Please get the grammar right. "If it were..."
- ◆ *Tie teacher pay to student performance.*
- ◆ *Transparent budget where funds go, and funds to go more towards teacher salaries and less towards admin. /excessive waste higher up. Taxes are extremely high as it is - we do NOT want them any higher. We need to look at where we can cut, where it can hurt the least.*
- ◆ *Try some serious re-imagining of what and how education is delivered. It could be that we are trying to work with an old out-dated model of one teacher/one classroom/15 kids.*
- ◆ *Try starting budget cuts by city high administration costs? Fat rises to the top.*
- ◆ *Turn schools into affordable housing*
- ◆ *Unfortunately, I think this process has lacked severely in transparency, I am quite disappointed in the way the surveys have been facilitated, and the information provided to families.*
- ◆ *Until the middle schools were rebuilt in the 1990s, all grades rode the school buses at the same time, and school opened about 8:30. Returning to that system is good for students, will save money, may help with the school bus driver shortage, and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*
- ◆ *Use competency based curriculum so that are students are retaining what is taught instead of “effort” based advancement. I truly believe that we are doing a major disservice to our children by allowing them to skim through their education without making sure that they comprehend what is necessary in order to move on/up in to next lessons.*
- ◆ *Use school for extra curricular activators.*
- ◆ *Use the high school extra space for affordable housing*
- ◆ *Utilize local talent and entrepreneurs...teach financial literacy to all students*
- ◆ *Very small town schools sound quaint, but it does not seem efficient as far as hiring teachers and staff. If any schools are closed, I hope the respective town(s) can use the building(s) for another purpose beneficial to the town as a whole. Having to ride a bus is not such a terrible thing.*
- ◆ *Virtual classes could augment in person. Say 2 or 3 days virtual and 2 or 3 in person. This would reduce pollution and costs.*
- ◆ *Vouchers*
- ◆ *Wait to see if conval wins the law suit that our superintendent has worked so hard on*

- the better fund education. The state needs more options for supporting education.*
- ◆ *Wait. May populations in the USA and in the world would love to live here and have their children attend ConVal.*
 - ◆ *We are not adequately preparing our children for academic success from grade 7 onward. Focus is on high achievers or special needs; not the average student in the middle. Pay teachers better and give them more support, stop standardized testing, prepare high school students for real life, more pen and paper learning (too much technology), stop pushing college as the only choice after high school, stop mainstreaming kids with severe behavioral issues.*
 - ◆ *We are strong supporters of Public Ed and anyone who argues about their property taxes being too high to support the schools has never lived someplace else.*

Cannot assess closures because the overhead of operating the schools/student is unknown to me and likely is dependent on the specific school.

Class size and mix is important. Teacher reward structure is important. Special ED is important. I am not convinced that putting 13-year-olds in with 18-year-olds is helpful. But Conval may be a special case.

Bus ride length for young children is VERY important. Would hate to see more than 60 minutes for older students, 5 and 6-year-olds should be no more than 45 minutes.

- ◆ *We are the Conval district and not individual towns*
- ◆ *We decided to seek an independent school for our son due to inconsistent educational opportunities at ConVal and lack of highly qualified teachers. We have paid tuition (in addition to our taxes) for his education for 13 years.*
- ◆ *We have been through this so many times and we have never seen a break down of multiple scenarios with cost and student experience implications. These questions can be better answered if one knew the results of a choice. How much is saved by closing this school vs that school? How much is saved by moving 5th back? What would the cost of increased bussing be? How does consolidation affect student's after school opportunities, sports, etc. how much does it cost to keep an empty building going? Are there examples to show population implications in a town from closing a school? Have we talked about quality of life for children? Are smaller grades better- what does the data show? What is the success rate of our current students? Recent grads? Let's ask recent ConVal grads within the last 10 years about their experiences. It's not all about savings - the savings may increase costs somewhere else- this is and has always been the missing information that would help the public form a less emotional opinion. The survey should ask if you have had a conval student in the past and when; not just current.*

There are pros and cons to every scenario. Please do an analysis on each option - what are the outcomes- implications on education, cost, student, family, town. Otherwise, we are making these choices and giving our opinions blindly and purely based off of emotion and/or our own personal experiences. What does closing an elementary school look like? Then what? People need to know how it would impact their child for

example, before forming an opinion- would one town be consolidated with another? How do we choose which towns? Do we just blur the lines, some some kids in town go to one school, while others attend another?

So many unanswered questions that if answered, would help community members get on board and work together.

- ◆ *We have been tremendously happy with our child's experience at ConVal. No school district is perfect. But our child is tremendously happier in ConVal than the previous district he was in. I would love to see ConVal be able to offer more competitive salaries to entice teachers to come and to stay. Teachers deserve a fair salary. The value and impact teachers have in our lives is immense. We should treat them as the precious resource they are. Our children deserve a consistent and thorough education. If our resources and taxes are being spread too thin across schools for the simple nostalgia and/or relative ease of having an elementary or middle school in the town we reside, it makes perfectly logical sense to consolidate those resources. I am a firm believer that smaller classrooms do offer a better learning environment. But that doesn't mean each class needs 5 students to be successful. If we provide our teachers (and all associated educators) with the resources and support they know they need, it seems logical that students will also benefit. As a property owner and taxpayer, I have no issue paying my fair share if taxes. But I would like those taxes to be used in the most efficient effective way possible. I am of course open to hearing the opposing argument for keeping schools open in towns with tremendously low enrollment. I would like to hear the concerns that party poses. The best way forward is to think first of the education and safety of our children in the district. Everything else will follow if we move forward with clear heads not polluted by self-agendas.*
- ◆ *We live less than a mile from sms and a few miles from pes our kids have over an hour on the bus now. Also consider that sms students could have attended different schools then the town they live in for elm.*
- ◆ *We moved to Peterborough from a smaller town and both of my children struggled with the smaller elementary school. Both had under 10 students in their class and once you are in those classes they were stuck with the same kids year after year. One was in a combined 3/4 class two years in a row and this was not a good fit academically or socially.*
- ◆ *We must find a way to deliver an exceptional education at a lower cost as the taxpayer currently shoulders a majority of the bill. Perhaps an independent review of the administrative personnel in the Conval system would reveal savings through a restructuring and flattening of the organization.*
- ◆ *We need a lot more support and activities for our students struggling with their mental health.*
- ◆ *we need more social education learning at elementary schools, kids don't enjoy school meals, better communication about issues with our kids during the school day,*
- ◆ *We need to consider not using town lines for reconfiguration, but rather zones of attendance.*
- ◆ *We need to find a way to offer a more competitive pay across all positions. We are short staffed in addition to managing so many different schools, and it's hard to*

attract new staff to a more remote area with low pay.

- ◆ We really love the staff at FES and they do an incredible job at giving the kids an educational experience that is both positive and fun. I think the small community at FES helps the kids to be flexible to make friends outside of their grades and that is something that you lose when you increase a school size. As someone who was bullied in elementary school, I find it very important to provide environments (as FES has) that are not tolerant to bullying and that teach kids to be flexible independent thinkers. If school size is too small, please consider giving local homeschool kids the opportunity to take extra curricular activities (P.E., Art, Music, Etc) at FES.
- ◆ We should consolidate into one middle school.
- ◆ We should have never approved a Charter School to open in the Monadnock area, Town of Peterborough, when we already had low enrollment in our local Elementary Schools. Enrollment was increasing in our Elementary schools and then the Charter School opened taking students and resources from the Local Elementary Schools.

The are going to continue to add grades each year and as they do that the question will not be about closing Elementary it will then be about closing Middle Schools?

Now we are in an even more difficult situation. Not sure how this happened?

- ◆ We should never close a local school.
- ◆ What if they combined middle schools with 7th and 8th graders, like a junior high and put 5th and 6th in the elementary schools. Or put a preschool in every elementary school. When we voted for preschool for all we were misled. We thought it was for every school. This would increase enrollment in those smaller schools and increase revenue to offset the cost of those schools.
- ◆ What if we closed Peterborough elementary school and bussed those kids out to the smaller elementary schools? The kids who live near Dublin go to DCS, etc. The we could use PES for PD for staff
- ◆ What will happen when there is a baby boom in a few years? Lots of covid babies
- ◆ Whatever it takes to pay teacher's better, is what I would like to see happen. I don't want schools closed to give money back to taxpayers. I want the money to be used to increase teacher salaries and attract high quality teachers. The teacher shortage is a huge concern of mine. Quality teachers are necessary in order to provide a quality education. I am appalled that retired teachers have been called back since it was not possible to find adequate staff.
- ◆ When I do my household budget I often choose between what I want and what I need to balance my budget. The school district needs to do the same. What we need is a system that gives us a high quality education for our children at an affordable cost per student. That can not be done with our existing infrastructure. It is keeping young families from moving in and older people are leaving.
- ◆ When I was a child I had to ride on a long bus ride and much preferred when I lived where I had a short ride to school. Keeping fifth graders in our local schools will increase their local enrollment and is better for them socially. Change the middle schools so all students in one school. Why do we bus special ed students to Antrim

- instead of educating them in PES and SMS? Consolidated classes, my daughter had first/second grade in one classroom at PES and sixth/seventh with two years of same students/same teachers at SMS. I don't like the thought of busing or younger children out of their little towns to get their elementary education. consolidate classes, less teachers making it affordable and good for younger students to have a year older students. I had a first through third grade school and looked toward what the older students were leaning. In fifth and sixth grade I was in same small school classroom - same teacher and student wise it worked well. Fifth graders have more time to develop before being thrown into a large environment.*
- ◆ *When you close the elementary school in a town, fewer people will want to move there. People don't want to send small children on an hour-long bus ride, which it would be if the elementary school in any of the towns closed. If I had children of elementary school age, I would have moved here because of the high quality of the school.*
 - ◆ *while i understand the issues of low enrollment, I dont feel that combining schools further is the answer.*
 - ◆ *While we no longer have students enrolled in the Conval district, we moved back to this region in 1998 specifically because we understood our child on the autism spectrum would be well served by the special education programs and staff (K-12) based in Peterborough. We can't say enough good things about the staff specifically at Conval when it comes to special education services that benefited our child.*
 - ◆ *Why are teachers underpaid and the central office admin costs, including their salaries continually rising.*
 - ◆ *Why does it matter what the 60+ age group cares about unless they are raising their grandkids?*
 - ◆ *With all due respect, some of the survey questions feel loaded.*
 - ◆ *With the need for preschool and daycare, buildings could be used for this. Putting 5th in elementary school would increase elementary enrollment; later start times would benefit children; other options: 4 day school week; extra outside time*
 - ◆ *Without an elementary school our town will not attract families thus it will not be as diverse, it would lean toward an older population. Please actively involve teachers more in the decisions the School Board makes. Balance the finances vs respect and fairness to teachers & staff.*
 - ◆ *Work hard to attract and keep top teachers. We need to educate the general public on th effort and time invested by quality teachers. Children are the future of our country*
 - ◆ *Work on attracting home schoolers and those going to private and charter schools by focusing in on quality teaching. Merge the middle schools into a wing of the high school. Keep the local elementary schools. Increase the grades to 5 or even 6 if necessary to keep costs down. The high property taxes due to the school component is impacting the ability of municipalities to hire quality workers and provide basic municipal services and necessary infrastructure improvements, while trying to attract the younger generation who will have school age kids.*

- ◆ *Work on ways to increase enrollment based on most recent census data for number of school aged children in the district.*
- ◆ *Would like to see more school choice*
- ◆ *Would like to see teachers just teach reading writing and arithmetic.*
- ◆ *Would love to see high school start time pushed back to 8 or 830.*
My daughter is in the high school now so closing an elementary school or 2 doesn't really impact us at all, but I can see both sides of this issue. Classrooms with 10 kids and less are not great and certainly the schools with less than 50 kids total is problematic but if it were my town I wouldn't want my elementary school closed - which is why this reform always fails when put to a vote. My guess is that low enrollment has more to do with lack of affordable housing and declining birth rates than the location of the elementary schools.
- ◆ *You need to have a more competitive salary to get better qualified teachers- too many phenomenal teachers have left over because of this over the years. There also needs to be more equity across your policies- whether you see it or not students in this district are not treated equally and the policies are upheld for some while others get to "be exempt" from the expectations. It happens way toooo much.*
- ◆ *You should ask questions of residents whose children are graduates of the ConVal system, ask how they did--maybe there's something to learn from experience.*
- ◆ *You should include a category of N/A for those without children.*
And, I have lived in the Conval school district for 40 years, just different towns.

October Community Survey

Overall Results

1. Do you currently have school-age children living in your home (or in your family if you are a non-custodial parent)? (n=403)

Yes	36%
No	64%

2. Do you currently have children enrolled in a ConVal school? (n=402)

Yes	31%
No	69%

3. Would you be supportive of a plan that reduced the number of elementary schools from 8 to 5 or 6 schools? (n=404)

Yes	50%
No	23%
Not Sure	14%
Only if...	13%

- ◆ *it reduces my property taxes and keeps kids in a school within 15 minutes of their house*
- ◆ *We weren't funding lionheart*
- ◆ *they didn't decide that EVERYBODY attend PETERBOROUGH because it was MUCH MORE IMPORTANT*
- ◆ *We include a collaborative program for students with extreme behavior challenges as they can get support from professionals who can be central and local to their needs rather than spread out all over the district.*
- ◆ *I would be interested in whether preK and also 5th grade at all the elementaries would help, having only one middle school at SM grades 6-8 with access to advanced curriculum and using the other middle school GB for another purpose - senior activities? child care?for*
- ◆ *The budget would decrease drastically, taxes are way too high*
- ◆ *in addition to a district-wide vote, the individual towns in which schools would be closed also vote as such with a 2/3 majority.*
- ◆ *The town in question was on board.*
- ◆ *The students in the 2 or 3 schools to close would get a better education as demonstrated by higher proficiency levels.*
- ◆ *The cost of bussing is favorable and the children spend no more than half an hour getting to school.*
- ◆ *Families of schools that were closed could pick their new school.*
- ◆ *I'm in favor of consolidation for many reasons, but I would like to see a different breakdown of grades at each building. For instance a graded breakdown- a Pre-k - 1 school, 2-5 school, and a 6-8 school*
- ◆ *Absolutely if it's going to help with taxes*

- ◆ *If there is more in-depth examination of long term impacts on the communities losing their schools. I do think some schools can get too small (under 30-35 students)*
- ◆ *Peterborough Elementary was an option to close and move those students to the community, newer schools.*
- ◆ *Only if all the students in the district get the same resources across all the schools in the district*
- ◆ *Combined schools were close enough so the commute would not be excessively different than the present situation AND one super[-sized school would not be created AND the affected townspeople supported the change.*
- ◆ *It wouldn't put teachers out of their jobs and the rezoning would allow children to stay in school with their friends from their previous school.*
- ◆ *there was a small elementary school near Temple*
- ◆ *It lead to more opportunity for enrichment, better proficiencies and reduced costs*
- ◆ *We were promised there would be no more than 15 students per class. The proficiency rates of several elementary schools is less than 50%. Others are just above 50%. This is not good enough. It's not the time to make little kids spend an hour each way on a bus to go to school when they could be learning. When proficiency rates are above 75% in all schools, then you could consolidate.*
- ◆ *Special education services were adequately staffed and equitably distributed*
- ◆ *We couldn't reduce the number to between 2-4*
- ◆ *Class sizes stayed small (approx 14-16 students)*
- ◆ *Breakdown by geographical location rather than separated by town. Taxes should be spread evenly among towns regardless.*
- ◆ *The higher performing schools are kept*
- ◆ *Teacher/Student ratio remains balanced and travel to/from school is studied with goal to NOT extend students day.*
- ◆ *Older buildings close and prek for all*
- ◆ *Adequate infrastructure is developed. Existing facilities are not appropriate to support the increases in student populations and associated physical and personnel supports.*
- ◆ *Your data is not accurate. These numbers are not correct, and what is Dublin ES??? Do you mean DCS??*
- ◆ *If the budgets made sense.*
- ◆ *Send Temple to a neighboring district.*
- ◆ *Greenfield was still present*
- ◆ *Class sizes remained small and the supports are accessible in every school equally. No child is left without proper supports.*
- ◆ *the plan also reduced our district to ONE middle school.*
- ◆ *Not if it means closing Francestown Elementary, which has the highest test score in the Conval district.*
- ◆ *Will it lower taxes? Or just shift the budget to elsewhere? Will it require too much transport time for the kids having to go to different schools?*
- ◆ *it made financial sense and overall provided students with better education/more opportunities for services (I personally think PES satisfies a "good education")*
- ◆ *Class sizes did not drastically increase as scores are already low enough and not improving.*
- ◆ *A plan was concurrent to ensure use of the vacated school by the district or another agency to maintain upkeep for possible future flexible use.*

- ◆ *Elementary students are not on buses or traveling to school for more than 30 minutes. Their days should not be taken up by long travel times to school if possible*
- ◆ *closing was associated high cost per student*
- ◆ *Kids were not on buses for longer than an hour.*
- ◆ *How consistent are these trends over time?*
- ◆ *It was truly a significant cost savings that was going to make a significant difference in education AND their social emotional well being, which at this point I don't see being the outcome.*
- ◆ *There can be one school for all towns, thus enabling all students to access all resources.*
- ◆ *there were not an opportunity to close more schools (preferably keeping only 2 elementary schools)*
- ◆ *5th & 6th grades return to local elementary schools*
- ◆ *For the higher cost schools, the towns pick up the extra cost.*
- ◆ *Conval can prove through credible data that student court ones will improve. To my knowledge, data shows that student outcomes are tied to parent education and income, which will not be affected by closing schools.*
- ◆ *There was enough savings.*
- ◆ *The preschool programs don't go below the 4 schools that have a program*
- ◆ *Lionheart is one of the schools that close*
- ◆ *HES is kept open*

4. Would you be supportive of a plan that reduced the number of elementary schools from 8 to 3 or 4 schools? (n=402)

Yes	33%
No	46%
Not Sure	17%
Only if...	5%

- ◆ *it reduces my property taxes and keeps kids in a school within 15 minutes of their house*
- ◆ *This all depends on the supports in place and if our schools will still be short resources. Will there be more more counselors and psychologists on hand to help students with trauma and behavioral needs? Will the ratio of supports drastically improve? If not, I am not on board. I also don't want to increase class sizes as they are already so challenging. It isn't about the numbers, but rather the needs of students and how much trauma kids are facing. We need to stop looking at just class size. There is way more to this.*
- ◆ *Perhaps if a grade level school model were adopted, maybe with a preK-grade 2 school & a grades 3-5 school in the northern section of the district with the same in the southern section of the district - or east/west, whatever combination makes the most sense and again having 1 middle school, grades 6-8 at SM near the high school and using the other middle school for another purpose. Grade level schools can help with enrollment fluctuations and also provide more uniform educational opportunities.*
- ◆ *The assumption isn't that all elementary children go to Antrim or Peterborough.*
- ◆ *There is capacity at the receiving schools for the incoming number of students; 2) The students from the sending schools would get a better education as demonstrated bub higher proficiency levels.*
- ◆ *...the cost of bussing is favorable and the children have no more than half an hour ride.*

- ◆ *I'm in favor of consolidation for many reasons, but I would like to see a different breakdown of grades at each building. For instance a graded breakdown- a Pre-k - 1 school, 2-5 school, and a 6-8 school*
- ◆ *there was a small elementary school near Temple*
- ◆ *It lead to more opportunity for enrichment, better proficiencies and reduced costs*
- ◆ *Class sizes stayed small (approx 14-16 students)*
- ◆ *Dependent on location of those schools and necessary travel times for the students.*
- ◆ *Not if it means closing Francestown Elementary, which has the highest test score in the Conval district.*
- ◆ *it made financial sense and overall provided students with better education/more opportunities for services (I personally think PES satisfies a "good education")*
- ◆ *Elementary students should not spend more than 1 hour one way on bus; kindergarten less*
- ◆ *Hancock remained opened*
- ◆ *there were not an opportunity to close more schools (preferably keeping only 2 elementary schools)*
- ◆ *Pes doesn't change*
- ◆ *Too much time on the bus/transportation and too many kids per class*
- ◆ *Lionhart is one of the schools that close*

5. Would you be supportive of a plan that spent the same amount of money per student across elementary schools even if that meant some elementary schools would not get the same resources as others? (n=399)

Yes	19%
No	48%
Not Sure	27%
Only if...	7%

- ◆ *Opportunities were equal*
- ◆ *all the Special Ed students weren't concentrated in one school, as has happened*
- ◆ *This is already the model.*
- ◆ *The "exceptional" resources mentioned in so many earlier either or questions: what are they? are they really exceptional? See below where the questions offer apples for questionable oranges.Can they possibly outweigh the stultifying experience of sitting on a bus hours a day?*
- ◆ *There were 2 or 3 Elementary schools.*
- ◆ *If smaller schools want to remain open, the local towns should kick in the difference in cost to run their schools.*
- ◆ *This assessment should not be about \$\$ since Conval has yet to really separate out the costs per school.*
- ◆ *We need to understand why each elementary school does not have the same cost per student, what those resources cost per student, and how to deliver the same resources to every student at the same cost.*
- ◆ *If possible, I believe a town should be able to pay extra to keep their school open. If Temple taxpayers are willing to pay extra they should be able to keep the school open.*
- ◆ *My taxes don't increase.*

- ◆ *What kind of question is that*
- ◆ *This is such a loaded and poorly written question. It's not possible to spend the exact same amount on each student in the district, a school like Antrim has a much higher rate of students on IEPs than PES, of course it will cost more. There is a lot of socio-economic diversity within our district's communities.*
- ◆ *The schools had a major say in what this means. There are enrichment opportunities that might be provided by volunteers which might be different, but just as valuable as what other schools have to offer.*
- ◆ *There was a way to do this without great inequities to some students*
- ◆ *Much basic equipment as a fixed cost. The school bell costs the same if there are 16 students in the school or 36. A whiteboard in each classroom costs the same amount regardless if there are 10 or 20 in the classroom. Our schools have had mixed classes for over 30 years to help equalize class size. Teachers know how to do this.*
- ◆ *students got what they needed. That the individual town taxes would go up to cover the difference and ensure FAPE.*
- ◆ *That doesn't even make sense. As a school district, resources and taxes should be evenly distributed throughout all district schools.*
- ◆ *There is no agreement to reduce # of students in each school that remains open.*
- ◆ *all elementary students were getting the same educational opportunities*
- ◆ *Academic outcomes should be comparable as well (would be hard to make that happen)*
- ◆ *It's legal.*
- ◆ *Each town paid the same amount of money. Peterborough being a larger town should not be paying more than Temple*
- ◆ *Yes as long as it is an average of what is spent now. The graph shows it all where those schools with more resources are doing better. If that can be split fairly amongst the school district, then overall attendance may just increase.*
- ◆ *Only if students were not short changed in any fashion. ie student teacher ratio, not being transported any further than they are now.*
- ◆ *They should all be consolidated, for the good of the students.*
- ◆ *no consolidation happens.*
- ◆ *The individual town taxes should pay the difference so kids could get what they need.*
- ◆ *This is a leading question that appears designed to elicit a certain answer. Survey responders do not have enough information to answer this question. Very poorly designed survey.*

6. Considering the data in the tables: (n=402)

Option	Yes	No	Not Sure
Would you be supportive of a plan that moved all 5 th into the elementary schools, even if it meant less extracurricular opportunities for those students?	65%	21%	14%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer PreK in all remaining elementary sites?	44%	38%	18%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer afterschool care in all remaining elementary sites?	46%	41%	13%

Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer more academic opportunities at the high school?	43%	40%	17%
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7. If closing some elementary schools becomes necessary because of district financial struggles, the best thing to do is: (n=293)

- ◆ *Ask the elementary staffs for suggestions they think could reduce costs while still maintaining the important work of educating kids. The District should have some leeway from State requirements that make sense in large elementary schools, but don't make sense in small elementary schools.*
- ◆ *Consolidate schools. A lot parents choose to put their kids on the bus for an hour to attend private or parochial school...this issue is all about control.*
- ◆ *Look at geography for k-4 and combine so bus routes remain reasonable. Combine middle schools so they take the same bus as high school.. GBS has its own routes, but SMS share with high school already...and the Sms/ high school busses are almost empty as it is!*
- ◆ *close 3 elementary schools and reduce property taxes*
- ◆ *Combine some elementary schools and combine the middle schools. When combining elementary schools' whatever side of town, the kid lives. Send them to the closest school. Like the big cities do for their multiple schools.*
- ◆ *Just do it and stop wasting time*
- ◆ *Figure out a way to make the budget work to keep all the schools. If some schools are so very small, perhaps the extra unused space in those schools could be leased to a community group, or a pre-K or daycare center to generate income to make up for the deficit*
- ◆ *Close the schools with the lowest enrollment. Academic performance and achievement result from a complex set of factors not just how much money is spent per student. Many of the factors that impact student achievement are outside of the district's control. For example, housing and food insecurity and the parents level of academic achievement.*
- ◆ *This is difficult to answer because this survey is still incredibly skewed. Is the district struggling financially?? If so, we should hear about it and why. If not, then this shouldn't be a question. All of these options/questions are poorly worded because the "data" provided above is still not enough information to answer. Of course the cost per student will be higher in a school with 30 students vs a school with 200+ students. The proficiency table is ridiculous because it does not include the whole school...and you didn't even include what grade this information was obtained from (or if it was even across the same grade in each school!). Poorly done*
- ◆ *Close two schools, stop funding lionheart. Then provide k-5 Elementary and keep two middle schools 6-8, and one HS*
- ◆ *Consider how to mitigate the extreme high costs of, especially bussing, to be done in alternative ways.*
- ◆ *close some elementary schools*
- ◆ *Put all the teachers and administration in buses (esp Peterborough staff) and spend at least part of a day field-tripping at each school so they can see first-hand what the "other schools" are like in their district.*
- ◆ *Soft borders in towns to allow closers*
- ◆ *Close Temple and Francistown school because low enrollment. Use the buildings for pre-K programs.*

- ◆ *Either move the 5th graders back into all of the elementary schools or if closing is necessary, close the 2 schools with the most consistent lowest census*
- ◆ *Put the preschool programs together in the building that was closed. For example, close Hancock and put all the preschool programs in that building.*
- ◆ *If the student "load" were spread out among the schools with smaller enrollment it would not be necessary. If the costs of busing: equipment, fuel, drivers (already hard to find); and the negative effects of sitting on a bus for hours, (a trip that for many children is often fraught with cruel and hostile interpersonal experiences) were factored in transparently, and the "district" were not burdened with the voucher/choice charade, "necessary" would be defined differently.*
- ◆ *Please see my previous responses. I know transportation will always be an issue but perhaps having the middle school and high school within walking distance of each other, you could have the middle school and high school students take the same buses. Bussing would have to be a part of the switch to grade level schools also but maybe smaller busses could be used, maybe electric or hybrid vehicles - I think there is grant money for that type of thing. You have to offer an attractive option for parents & students. You have to show the educational and social advantages above and beyond the monetary woes. NH is not going to change its funding formula anytime soon so the district has to be creative.*
- ◆ *Not close the elementary schools. Push back 5th or even 6th grade. Close 1 of the middle schools. Closing the community schools, regardless of numbers will be an economic disaster for this community. This is an aging community and not having an elementary school in each town will not attract young families to our area. What are the long range implications of that scenario? Has Kimberly Saunders and the school board considered that?*
- ◆ *Not close elementary schools. Send 5th and even 6th grade back to elementary, close 1 of the middle schools and stop this nonsense!*
- ◆ *Combine the schools with the lowest enrollments (put Francestown in with Bennington, etc)*
- ◆ *Wait...I get that operating schools with the current model may be more expensive than other models, but what indications are there that the district is experiencing financial struggles? By my understanding, towns are passing the school's proposed budgets. Even if not, the default budget will still go a long way. If the district is even close to "struggling" financially, the board needs to come right out and say it.*
- ◆ *Consolidate, pool resources*
- ◆ *Close the elementary schools as necessary.*
- ◆ *Be creative. Increasing the individual school's enrollment with younger (Pre-K) and older (5,6,7 and 8th grades); make this work through looping in nearby towns to increase the enrollment. Offer more specialized, needed subjects with traveling teachers/specialists.*
- ◆ *Close GBS also*
- ◆ *Start with most costly schools*
- ◆ *Close highest cost per student and work down from high to low*
- ◆ *Close schools in a way that minimizes the extra commute for students of the closed-school towns.*
- ◆ *Close as few as possible.*
- ◆ *Give the towns that lose their schools a huge tax break.*
- ◆ *close those with the highest cost per pupil*
- ◆ *1) Combine nearby grade schools:*
 - *Francestown, Greenfield, Bennington, Hancock, Antrim (406 kids)*
 - *Temple, Dublin, Peterborough (356 kids)*

- *if capacity can be held in one school, or break it up into four schools.*
- ◆ *There are four elementary schools the cost per student is out of range and the profienencies are not that high. I would want to know why the cost and not the performance*
- ◆ *Close smallest and most expensive*
- ◆ *Closing elementary schools to fund HS programs is contradictory to what's best for all.*
- ◆ *Combine Pierce and Antrim. Combine Dublin and Hancock. Do not increase enrollment at PES.*
- ◆ *Look very hard at the overall SAU budget and make cuts where areas are costing more for little to no value. Cut those areas first, then decide if it is really necessary to close any elementary school.*
- ◆ *Consider new innovative Teaching/learning methods (Low Scores may be due to teaching methods)*
- ◆ *Understand that the intrinsic value of an elementary school in town outweighs district financial troubles, figure it out.....*
- ◆ *integrate Temple elementary into PES.*
- ◆ *Combine Bennington/Pierce and Francestown into one elementary*
- ◆ *raise taxes*
- ◆ *combine Greenfield, Francestown, and/or Bennington , Temple would have to go to peterborough but I understand the concern about busing young children over Temple.*
- ◆ *revisit the entire budget and look at other ways to cut costs in order to keep our elementary schools open.*
- ◆ *Move my children out of the district. If you close my towns elementary school which means my child will be bussed to another town, why do I need to stay in this school district? I can instead chose to send my child to a school worth being bussed or driven to.*
- ◆ *1. shrink cost of administration 2, raise taxes*
- ◆ *Amend agreements to allow towns to pay extra to keep their local school. 2. If they don't want to or that is or its not possible, then close the smallest schools (while considering driving times/capacity at combined schools)*
- ◆ *Closing the elementary schools is not the answer to financial struggles. Combine the middle schools. Reduce administrators.*
- ◆ *close low number student school, anything under 60 students*
- ◆ *close some of the schools based on a well thought out plan that was developed before the need arose.*
- ◆ *Figure out how to address the significant challenges that would present for those living furthest from the remaining schools. Households with kiddos in the district have two full time working parents. Additionally the notion of having to put my child on a bus at 6 in the morning and having her spend more than an hour on the bus is awful.*
- ◆ *Have my town elementary school join another school district.*
- ◆ *Close all but two.*
- ◆ *Combine elementary schools. Very low enrollment limits students' circle of friends and social growth.*
- ◆ *Instead of closing schools we should think about ways for the schools to make money in other ways like housing an adult daycare center or becoming an incubator job site.*
- ◆ *Close TES; shift students to Greenville*
- ◆ *Stop wastimng money on the amatures, like the folks who wrote this survey*

- ◆ *Close the schools with the highest cost per student and reallocate those students the other schools by seat availability or geography.*
- ◆ *Lower taxes*
- ◆ *To save money, perhaps the district should consider the amount of administrators per school and at the main office. Instead of closing schools, look at how top heavy the district is and how teachers, students, and parents are treated by administrators. Also, I didn't see any graphs on how much this outsourced company is costing the district, how much is spent on non academic and non career/vocational education for students, and how much is spent on unnecessary testing. Spend more on mental health of students and teachers, more on special education, and more on before and after school programs while still keeping all schools opened if you want community support. It is not appropriate to bus elementary aged students over 30 mins to the next town just so you can keep your administrators and overpriced bs such as paying for these surveys to reorganize schools.*
- ◆ *Move other grades to elementary schools so schools do not close.*
- ◆ *Rename the schools.*
- ◆ *Give the students from the closed schools a choice about what school to attend.*
- ◆ *Unfortunately 4 schools need to be closed.*
- ◆ *Look at cost, consider student going to other school districts that may be closer, move students into the middle schools.*
- ◆ *The most responsible action in the interests of the students.*
- ◆ *Close the schools that are not 'living' up to potential enrollment*
- ◆ *Balance the high cost and low enrollment schools with geographical needs/access.*
- ◆ *Reduce the cost by cutting unnecessary curriculum and low level attendance courses*
- ◆ *Combine elementary and some middle schoolers*
- ◆ *Consolidate the Middle Schools*
- ◆ *Look at options that are best for ALL students. While combining schools is ultimately the best option, students shouldn't be on the bus for over an hour to get there. Every student should have the same access to specials, guidance counselors, nurses, extracurricular activities, etc.*
- ◆ *Close Temple Dublin and Francestown ES*
- ◆ *bring the 5th graders and even the 6th graders back to the elementary schools.*
- ◆ *incorporate 5th grade into elementary*
- ◆ *ensure quality/equitable education for all*
- ◆ *Close Temple and Francestown*
- ◆ *Close the School. We need to bring our taxes down !!!!!*
- ◆ *send students to a neighboring town*
- ◆ *One Elementary School in the North, one in the South and one in the middle (GES)*
- ◆ *Ensure students at closed schools get quality transportation to their new schools, support the families with the transition (ex. Excellent communication, intro to new school, etc), very importantly offer employment at remaining schools for teachers at closing schools and/or a good severance pay deal, and responsibly reallocate the closing schools' resources to places that need them (not just trashing usable materials - there are orgs that will reclaim school materials on a large scale, North Hampton School in NH did that ten ish years ago to declutter.*
- ◆ *Move*

- ◆ *Let voters and community members decide what they want to spend our student's educations, in other words give communities the opportunity to pass the needed budget. Investing in education in our community is one of the best things we can do.*
- ◆ *Move all 5th and 6th graders back to local elementary schools and combine the middle schools in Peterborough*
- ◆ *Close Peterborough and disperse those students. Also, close Great Brook and only have SMS for Middle school.*
- ◆ *Repurpose the closed buildings into juvenile detention centers / work camps, so the lowest performing students can generate income for the school district through forced labor.*
- ◆ *add pre-k and grade 5+ 6 so that the schools are more fully utilized. The buildings will still have costs to maintain them if they are empty. It is better to have them in use than to be empty. Elementary schools are an important part of each town. The benefits to the children should be the primary consideration.*
- ◆ *increase state funding to schools*
- ◆ *"I don't see closing elementary schools as an option. The data you have provided is not a true reflection of what is happening at each school. With the small schools the number of students is so small that the data is not statistically significant.*
- ◆ *Closing a school would have negative results for the small towns."*
- ◆ *A strong elementary education is vital. I would sacrifice sports for academics. Not totally, but if a student participates in after school sports, does s/he need in school gym?*
- ◆ *Rezone the schools in a way that teachers don't lose their jobs, students stay with their friends, and the trip to schools from children's homes is not unreasonably long.*
- ◆ *Keep bus time reasonable for elementary school kids - consider creative options such as a few centralized bus stops (such as at the town library) that are towards the end of the route before the bus drives to the other town where the open elementary school is so families have the option to drop their kids off at these so there is less total time on the bus; have affected families see the benefits and positive opportunities of being part of a larger elementary school.*
- ◆ *Close elementary schools which are close to other ones so the students don't have to travel far to get to the alternative school they are assigned to.*
- ◆ *Take away sports at the high school*
- ◆ *Still embrace and stay w some small town schools!! Please don't send our little ones more than a twin away!!!! Soo if FES is SUPER SADLY closed then the kids should go to BES!!! AES already had horrible ratings!!! As a parent I don't want them thrown into that!!*
- ◆ *Have one building house all pre-k students. All services and personnel in one place and no traveling from school to school.*
- ◆ *Not understood yet*
- ◆ *Not do this*
- ◆ *Not to do this. We can use our heads to figure out how to run pre-school and after school programs and tutoring services and charge parents on a sliding scale based on income as seen in tax forms. Some services such as tutoring may be sponsored by the state or federal programs as well.*
- ◆ *Leave the district*
- ◆ *There is not enough information about the consequences of each of the above questions to be able to make an informed decision. Nor is there enough information to answer this question.*

- ◆ *Every town deserves to have their own elementary school. If you close one you should close them all*
- ◆ *Move 5th grade and maybe 6th grade students back to ES*
- ◆ *combine the smallest schools with the larger ones (possibly Dublin and Temple with PES; Francestown with Greenfield; and Pierce with Antrim).*
- ◆ *"Close PES because it has the oldest building and the town could be cut into division to send students to the closest towns to aid in bussing. PES staff could be reassigned to the other schools to make up any staffing demands.*
- ◆ *Pre-K is not equitable. The voters were mislead. Instead of Pre-K for all, it was doubled in the towns that it already existed in."*
- ◆ *Consolidate elementary schools*
- ◆ *Fire the school board and start over.*
- ◆ *transfer students to other elementary schools and then convert old schools into housing or offices.*
- ◆ *Consolidate the northern elementary schools in Antrim and the southern schools in Peterborough...both already have schools that could accommodate the increase in size with minimal or no additions.*
- ◆ *Operate effectively. Provide equal educational opportunities*
- ◆ *start with the highest cost/student schools*
- ◆ *Offer that the towns can pay the difference if they want to keep their elementary school open.*
- ◆ *What if you moved the 5th grade into the elementary schools, but had bussing for extracurricular opportunities to the middle schools.*
- ◆ *Start looking at administrative cost first, not closing schools. Across the board there should be a deep dive into excess costs.*
- ◆ *Break up the district and let each town contract school services individually as determined by the parents.*
- ◆ *It is not necessary to close elementary schools. Redistributing middle school children and closing 1 or both middle schools is the solution. I resent the way questions are poised to lead to only 1 conclusion namely closing some or most of the elementary schools while ignoring what most of the regions population is saying. These questions are leading and manipulative.*
- ◆ *"Breakdown by geographical location rather than separated by town. For example, residents of SE Peterborough could attend TES. Residents of West Peterborough could attend DCS. Hancock to either Peterborough or Antrim, based on family preference/distance, and BES could join FES if necessary.*
- ◆ *Taxes and resources should be spread evenly among towns regardless."*
- ◆ *Better understand the cause of the financial struggles, present unbiased information to the taxpayers (with comparisons to similar districts) to inform discussions. I do not understand why closing elementary schools is the only option if the district has financial struggles.*
- ◆ *move students from the two middle schools back to the elementary schools; support only one middle school if necessary.*
- ◆ *Assess each proposed plan for economic value and go with the option that lowers the per-student cost most overall.*
- ◆ *Keep the highest performing schools open! There s a reason they are high performing.*
- ◆ *it is time to close these small town schools, consolidate.*

- ◆ *Keep young students as close to their home town as possible.*
- ◆ *close the necessary schools*
- ◆ *Close PES and send those kids to the smaller schools*
- ◆ *It has become necessary imo*
- ◆ *Use facts, figures, and individual school performance to decide what schools to close. Then communicate it better than what happened at the previous public sessions. People came expecting a person to explain the problems, and got posters and post it notes. The consultants that were there had few answers and often said things like “that’s upto the board”.*
- ◆ *Close them. This should have been done years ago. Do it sooner than later. Keep middle school separate from high school*
- ◆ *Open a town-based / homeschooled / charter elementary school*
- ◆ *I am unsure what district financial struggles might occur, especially since local schools are locally funded.*
- ◆ *Provide morning and afternoon care so parents can drop off at the school to avoid a long bus trip for young children. Include free breakfast.*
- ◆ *Don't close EL. Administrative costs should be cut first. Districts are too top heavy.*
- ◆ *Raise taxes*
- ◆ *Pick the schools that have the closest proximity to elem schools that remain open so children so children do not have to spend much time on buses, and let parents in closed elem town have choices about where their children go to school.*
- ◆ *consolidate them. We do not need one in every town. These students in the small schools need more opportunities and peer choices. I do have grandchildren in the district and I sub in the district, retired last June.*
- ◆ *Temple and Dublin go-to Peterborough.....Hancock to Bennington and Francestown to Greenfield.*
- ◆ *Bring 5th to ES and to close the few schools with less than 50 students.*
- ◆ *Close Dublin ES*
- ◆ *Make sure transportation is available and adjust the start time to allow families to travel.*
- ◆ *As I said previously, ask each town if they would like the option to run and fund their own elementary school.*
- ◆ *Ensure that the children of the closed schools stay together and with their beloved teachers. From what I can gather, there has been little to no thought of the actual children whose normalcy is being threatened and their emotional well-being. I am extremely concerned that my child, who is in a school most likely to close in this plan, will be impacted incredibly negatively by this change and I’m terrified for what it will do to him emotionally.*
- ◆ *I am not sure what district financial struggles entails.*
- ◆ *Make the decision. Stick to it. Move forward with compassion. Goal: provide the best education possible with the least disruption to the student(s). Be mindful of transportation and the child that has to travel the furthest. Provide vouchers for those families that do not want to stay within the Conval district.*
- ◆ *Close the smallest ones and move the kids to the schools with the most capacity closest to the town affected.*
- ◆ *Affected towns leave the district for a better-managed one.*
- ◆ *Do want needs to be done and is best for the students.*
- ◆ *Close the elementary school or schools with the lowest student enrollments*

- ◆ *Combine the ones closest to each other*
- ◆ *Close the schools with the lowest number of enrolled students*
- ◆ *Push 5th down to elementary. Put all 6/7 at sms. Make the new part of the new wing of the high school -or a badly needed remodel of cvhs-for 8th grade. Close gbs. Go further and close AES and split them into higher achieving elementary schools*
- ◆ *Close PES it is the oldest building and divide the town based on location and redistribute students into the schools closest to their home.*
- ◆ *The assumption that the financial struggles will be solved by closing elementary schools is not a well thought out assumption. The administration needs to look well beyond the elementary schools - start at the top and reduce administrators and staff. Look at combining middle schools. Fixation on closing elementary schools to the exclusion of other options shows true lack of leadership and broad thinking.*
- ◆ *Duh! Close some elementary schools!*
- ◆ *Do it*
- ◆ *Embrace the cultures of each school rather than pushing populations of the smaller schools to conform to the existing culture(s) of the larger schools.*
- ◆ *Find more funds.*
- ◆ *Move grades 5, 6 to elementary schools and move 7, 8 to high school, then close the middle school.*
- ◆ *Move 5th and 6th grades to elementary schools and close one middle school. Make the other a junior high school.*
- ◆ *Reduce number of schools however if a town wishes to keep their they could raise local property taxes to make up the difference in cost.*
- ◆ *I do not believe closing an elementary school is an option to keep our region desirable to move into. We should consider soft borders where families can choose which elementary school they want their child to attend.*
- ◆ *Move Temple to another district.*
- ◆ *Actively promote the benefits of consolidation*
- ◆ *Keep them open.*
- ◆ *Use the existing private schools who get tax benefits to absorb and offer reduced enrollment to students that live in the town.*
- ◆ *Close them!*
- ◆ *Do not use skewed data to sway people.*
- ◆ *be sure that the towns that lose elementary school can access neighboring town elementary school in order to avoid long bus rides*
- ◆ *How does one decide which towns get elementary schools -- it seems very unfair to pick on small towns to close their schools that contribute so much to the sense of community-- and it may not always be the same towns with the least number of students. So then what, reopen some and close the others that now have the least students? The graph shown at the top of the page is absolutely misleading by not showing the portion of the graph below 23K. Clearly it is a biased attempt to accentuate the cost of some of the small schools. I am disappointed to see that. There is no information regarding the reason for the higher costs per student at those schools with the highest costs -- is any of the increased cost due to higher cost staff and teachers or transportation costs? Asking us to consider proficiency data for these small samples is also flawed -- the data changes from year to year as the 4th grade students change.*
- ◆ *Consolidate*

- ◆ *Choose the schools to close so that the greatest financial gain is made with the least impact. Bussing young children a long distance is not great.*
- ◆ *close some schools*
- ◆ *Not spend valuable funds on evaluation company's and a 2.4 million dollar parking lot. Sounds like someone is making bad financial choices when they are having money problems. Fire that person(s).*
- ◆ *do it.*
- ◆ *Close some of the elementary schools or raise taxes.*
- ◆ *Remove Temple from the district and send to Wilton Lydenborough*
- ◆ *Close PES and move those students to the other elementary schools. Peterborough has 3 schools.*
- ◆ *Reorganize the students in each part of the district so not to overload one/two schools. Example if Dublin ES was to be closed don't just move those students to PES look at alternatives such as moving students to Hancock ES or vice versa.*
- ◆ *People are already having financial struggles. Total costs for schools needs to be reduced across the board or people are going to be losing their homes due to high property taxes. Need to focus on basic education without extras.*
- ◆ *Close whatever schools necessary in order to ensure an equal education for ALL students in the district, no matter which town they live in.*
- ◆ *Schools with less than 30 kids should be closed*
- ◆ *Ensure class sizes remain appropriate and not maxed out. Resources are sent where they are needed. The existing schools are used for before/after school care and we consider pre-k rather than using these buildings towards something else. We need to support our youth and their families otherwise people will choose towns with programs in place and people will not repopulate.*
- ◆ *Don't do it*
- ◆ *Consolidate the 8 elementary schools into 4.*
- ◆ *What is best for the kids.*
- ◆ *Close the smaller schools. Keep the stronger teachers. School is for learning. I'm tired of these kids not knowing how to read , write properly and do math without a calculator. Keep politics out of the classroom*
- ◆ *learn from past mistakes like when experts decided to move 5th and 6th graders out of elementary schools and then to build a elementary school in each town. I know there is no easy answer here and I don't have one. The data that is presented suggests closing Temple makes the most sense.*
- ◆ *also merge the two middle schools into one middle school.*
- ◆ *lower the property taxes of the town whose residents whose taxes will no longer pay for an in-town school.*
- ◆ *I'm not sure*
- ◆ *Close the elementary schools*
- ◆ *Close the smallest schools*
- ◆ *Consider the amount of time young elementary school children would be riding buses to and from schools, especially in winter and in rural areas*
- ◆ *"Homeschool.*
- ◆ *Make smarter choices with money."*

- ◆ *One or two towns can't be singled out. Elementary school consolidation needs to happen now, and it needs to be broad. Several elementary schools should close.*
- ◆ *Layout the number transparently for the residents to see exactly why their school has to be closed.*
- ◆ *Try to make sure the commute time for all students is similar*
- ◆ *combine some but give parents the option of where their student can go if their school is the one that is closing.*
- ◆ *Keep the higher performing schools and staff.*
- ◆ *Consider other financial strains (transportation, administrative costs, etc) before making changes for the STUDENTS!*
- ◆ *offer more academic opportunities at the high school (followed closely by pre-K)*
- ◆ *Close Temple ES, Dublin ES, and especially Frankestown ES. These are the smallest and most expensive ES in the county.*
- ◆ *Merge the struggling towns with the more successful and get everyone up across the board.*
- ◆ *Keep AES, Pierce, GES, and PES open. Consider having Dublin and Temple bus to Keene/Mascenic*
- ◆ *How about bussing some kids from larger schools to smaller schools like temple?*
- ◆ *Ensure that the remaining schools still have the resources needed so students maintain the environment one is used too. For example, increasing class size in school where they are below standards will not help out the school district in any way.*
- ◆ *Follow through with closings to save taxes.*
- ◆ *Stop using state taxes to fund homeschooling, private school and christian school tuitions! That public \$\$\$ should fund public schools.*
- ◆ *redistribute resources and personnel to make sure class sizes remain viable, at or below the state requirements, and that special education, counseling services and that students of all abilities are offered the best support possible.*
- ◆ *Increased class sizes MUST (!!!) result in higher paid teachers and paras. Better pay will help retain great teachers and make it possible for paras to make living wages*
- ◆ *Move 5th and 6th grade to all elementary schools and close one middle school.*
- ◆ *Close some schools based on a carefully thought out approach.*
- ◆ *consider student performance and cost per student*
- ◆ *I am sure you have done this but look at the bus ride times, etc. Trying first to bring all elementary schools together in regards to curriculum and teaching methods needs to be executed, or tried first. Regional elementary schools could be the answer but only after much study, look at other districts, demographics, etc.*
- ◆ *To close them! No elementary school should have fewer than 15 students in each grade.*
- ◆ *close the under used elementary schools*
- ◆ *Educate the public*
- ◆ *Fixed costs excluding teachers is the same regardless of census*
- ◆ *Cost per student vs outcomes*
- ◆ *Students at low performance schools are underserved as the data show*
- ◆ *Consolidate in a way that avoids long bus rides (yeah, I know).*
- ◆ *Remind retirees that SOMEONE ELSE paid for their education! No one made it on their own.*
- ◆ *Hold open forums*
- ◆ *Use border towns to bring kids to schools that are at the larger elementary schools into the smaller sized schools instead of having the kids farthest from the schools that are larger*

- combine into those to reduce class sizes and continue with the smaller classroom. The numbers do not tell the whole story as the smaller the numbers, the more cost per student due to the same resources for the students. As well as the smaller the numbers, the greater the impact a lower score will have on the overall percentage/performance of the school. Also demographics play a role, it isn't just dependent on the schools. There is a direct correlation with a families resources and finances with a child's education and level of reading/math skills at an early age due to what they are able to do in the home. Bring 5th grade back to elementary schools and add Prek to all elementary schools where younger kids are paying for private schools to increase the size of school. The plan to close schools and add more bus routes and more classrooms to accommodate students in the larger sized schools makes no sense in my opinion based on the above numbers.*
- ◆ *Select the nearest school to minimize busing time.*
 - ◆ *Do a pilot and close one of the smallest. The school will likely turn to being a charter school and the district will still incur costs.*
 - ◆ *Question assumes that it is necessary to close schools. It is not necessary, but an option to be considered - and not a very good one. This is a biased question.*
 - ◆ *Close as few as possible and only the smallest schools.*
 - ◆ *Combine some schools.*
 - ◆ *re-allocate funding*
 - ◆ *Consolidate as much as possible. We did this in the Mascenic district (I teach at MRHS), and it's been a huge advantage because we can focus resources, not have specials teachers driving to and fro, etc. Hardly any students walk to school anyway, so having the school nearby isn't really an issue, in my experience.*
 - ◆ *Reduce the middle schools, reduce the size of buildings, reduce the number of extracurricular activities.*
 - ◆ *Create a good process for giving parents information about how this would impact their children....keep town members apprised all along the way.*
 - ◆ *An extremely difficult question. Possibly close the elementary schools which are closest to the schools to the outplaying destination towns.*
 - ◆ *Clise Temple, Dublin abd Francestown schools.*
 - ◆ *Close the ones with lowest population*
 - ◆ *Reduce number of elementary schools to 4*
 - ◆ *eliminate all but two*
 - ◆ *1. Move more grades to the elementary schools, and 2.Fire the administration.*
 - ◆ *I would not support the closing of any schools and would mostly likely move out of the district if that were the case.*
 - ◆ *Consolidate to 1-3 elementary schools and design bus routes across town lines to minimize bus times. Stop pretending that this is a sustainable model and drive the tough choices. Support the staff and preserve the best enrichment programs when the schools are combined.*
 - ◆ *Keep both of the middle schools or I won't support any change*
 - ◆ *Find an acceptable tax e.g. sales or other to fill the financial gap*
 - ◆ *Close the schools we don't need. Taxes are way too high*
 - ◆ *Close the schools with the lowest enrollment*
 - ◆ *I am not sure how to answer these questions. I think evaluating a couple clear options and their expected benefits is easier than a ton of what if this or that things in isolation, aftercare, preschool adding programs, getting rid of schools all have different impacts.*

- ◆ *Create a plan that takes into account student travel time as well as financial support.*
- ◆ *Close underpopulated schools before they all start spending tax money on private schools...which is BS*
- ◆ *If the towns with low enrollment want to keep their schools open, have the difference be raised by the individual town taxes. So towns are paying for their small school, not the district.*
- ◆ *Start closing schools by choosing those that are farthest from the center of town.*
- ◆ *Just close the schools with low enrollment without having other options attached to it. Schools were built to address increasing enrollment. Now that student enrollment has been down for years, the same standards must be applied in reverse. Eliminate the waste and consolidate attendance.*
- ◆ *Close as few elementaries as possible. Consider things such as the quality of community life in each town, related to its own school, and the downside of long busing distances for children to a new consolidated elementary.*
- ◆ *Do it fairly.*
- ◆ *Not sure*
- ◆ *BRING 5 & 6TH GRADE BACK TO THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS & CLOSE ONE OF THE MIDDLES SCHOOLS.*
- ◆ *Try to minimize bus ride time*
- ◆ *Close 3 schools to start.*
- ◆ *look at sharing existing space in the school buildings instead of closing the schools altogether. Reduce administration positions & salaries. \$33k per student seems excessively high; there is probably a smarter way of budgeting the smaller schools than the status quo.*
- ◆ *cut administration staff*
- ◆ *Plan for transportation to each of the new centralized elementary schools.*
- ◆ *Consider time on bus when consolidating schools. Ensure before and after care and prek are available at all remaining schools.*
- ◆ *close them and combine up.*
- ◆ *Consolidate other schools*
- ◆ *move 5th and 6th grade back to elementary schools, and reduce middle schools to one. so: one high school, one middle school, the rest elementary schools.*
- ◆ *Close the two middle schools and bring back 5th and 6th grade to all elementary schools - keep all elementary schools open*
- ◆ *move 5th grade to elementary schools and combine the two middle schools*
- ◆ *K-6 (2-3 schools) and 7-12 (1 school), with FULL resources to support needs and academics. Have a signature internship program in 9th grade to help kids set the course for their next 4 years. I don't think money should be cut from the budget, but should be spend efficiently and effectively. I'd rather have more teachers and guidance than several new boilers and roofs . .*
- ◆ *In my opinion, the two smallest elementary schools should combine (close one of them) and all 5th (and possibly 6th) graders should return to their "home" elementary school. The one thing I do NOT want to ever see is elementary schools which are over 300-325 so students. PES is by far the largest elementary school (people in smaller towns think it is shockingly huge) and I think it is the perfect size but would be fine with another grade or two added to it. I would not be okay with adding whole towns to PES, which already includes Peterborough and Sharon.*

- ◆ *Move 5th and 6th grade to the elementary schools and close a middle school. When my kids went through Conval, that move to middle school in 5th grade felt instinctively wrong, and the kids suffered because of it.*
- ◆ *Seek funding (grants, taxes, private, public but KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN!!!!!!)*
- ◆ *Can you guarantee transportation? Even for PreK?*
- ◆ *Pick the most cost effective plan.*
- ◆ *Close the ES schools with the lowest enrollment and consolidate academic resources into the merged schools.*
- ◆ *Fire someone. There's no reason for there to be a struggle given what we're paying in taxes.*
- ◆ *closing some, with much emotional difficulty*
- ◆ *Close some and combine.*
- ◆ *Consolidate based on geography, and spread the savings across teacher and staff salaries.*
- ◆ *Close the smallest ones. Temple, Dublin, Hancock, Frankestown*
- ◆ *Bring 5th and 6th grade back to elementary, go to 1 middle school at SMS location so that 7-8th grade students could attend HS classes in subjects in which they are advanced.*
- ◆ *Have the students go to the closest school to their home address. So some towns might have kids in 3 different schools*
- ◆ *Close the smallest, most expensive schools. Towns have a responsibility in this as well. Some of our small towns have prohibitive zoning laws. If they want to maintain a school, change the zoning laws to support more housing.*
- ◆ *Close the two with lowest enrollment*
- ◆ *Reduce the high pay for upper administrators and raise teachers pay. Or raise taxes.*
- ◆ *ensure affordable childcare and preschool for everyone and then have 2 - 3 K-5 elementary schools, one 6 - 8 middle school, and one 9-12 high school*

8. Would you be supportive of one middle school instead of two? (n=401)

Yes	47%
No	26%
Not Sure	17%
Only if...	9%

- ◆ *5th and possibly 6th grade can be returned to the elementary schools*
- ◆ *Provide a new Middle School building*
- ◆ *of course you mean SMS, which needs to have its "sick building syndrome" cured first*
- ◆ *If class sizes were kept small and more academic and STEAM opportunities were made available*
- ◆ *Existing school can accommodate the numbers*
- ◆ *The one school has the ability to accept the extra students.*
- ◆ *there is not a large (50%+) increase in commute time*
- ◆ *...the current middle school population will fit in one school and keep or improve the educational offerings. Also bussing costs and ride duration should be a determining factor.*
- ◆ *No elementary schools were closed*
- ◆ *you bring the 5th and 6th grade students back to their elementary schools*
- ◆ *It meant a later start time*
- ◆ *If it were going to increase equity between the schools.*

- ◆ *It doesn't make the travel to school significantly more difficult for students and their parents*
- ◆ *It's at SMS*
- ◆ *Design flaw. You should be able to leave a comment without the program autoselecting "Only if...". Many school systems have 7,8, &9 in middle school, leaving more room in the high school for business, construction and other pre- professional programs.*
- ◆ *an idea is to have one middle school for 5th through 6th or 7th grade and then high school for 7 through 12 or 8 through 12, the junior/senior high school model*
- ◆ *it meant not closing an elementary school.*
- ◆ *there are cost savings benefits*
- ◆ *The class sizes aren't too large.*
- ◆ *It were able to offer appropriate resources without overcrowding.*
- ◆ *Yes, Middle school and high school should be separate and not combined*
- ◆ *Consolidated to SMS*
- ◆ *5th wasn't attending middle school*
- ◆ *It means that the elementary schools can remain open.*
- ◆ *Fifth grade was kept at elementary (potentially 6th as well)*
- ◆ *There was a clear financial benefit and efforts were made to optimize learning opportunities. I would be concerned about students making the transition going from a small elementary school to a even bigger middle school.*
- ◆ *lower grades moved back to the elementary schools*
- ◆ *Well, we live in Peterborough and would be very frustrating if our child could not go to a middle school in Peterborough.*
- ◆ *Travel times? Classroom and activity space? Control of larger groups? Cost benefit? (yes I know about fixed costs, but....)*
- ◆ *it would provide more educational and extracurricular opportunities.*
- ◆ *It increases opportunities for all students.*
- ◆ *Close both middle schools*
- ◆ *It is in Peterborough*
- ◆ *Only if you don't close the schools in Peterborough*
- ◆ *Students who were doing above-grade level work could take classes at the high school*
- ◆ *Only if the school gets expanded and there are more opportunities*

9. Research overwhelmingly supports a later start for secondary students and earlier start for elementary students. Would you be supportive of a plan to change school reporting times for secondary students? (n=401)

Yes	77%
No	8%
Not Sure	15%

10. In order to spend the same amount of money per student across middle schools, would you support adjusting middle school attendance zones to create two middle schools of roughly equal size? (n=401)

Yes	50%
No	15%
Not Sure	26%
Only if...	9%

- ◆ *Close 1. When I was at SMS I think we had 600+ students 5-8. We all fit just fine*
- ◆ *Have one middle school.*
- ◆ *you had an opportunity to request a different school if you were living in zone that changes from the current zone.*
- ◆ *Children aren't jelly beans in a jar*
- ◆ *I do think that one middle school is sufficient with the current and projected enrollment figures. Having walking access to the high school can provide many more options for enrichment, advanced classes, extracurricular activities that are understandably more difficult to provide evenly with two schools.*
- ◆ *Close GBS*
- ◆ *Do we need two?*
- ◆ *It depends: 1) capacity of current schools, can the receiving school really accommodate the proposed increase in students? 2) Will this in any way alleviate the teaching staff shortage? 3) Will the proficiency testing result in better or worse results?*
- ◆ *I think the towns that would be impacted should get to decide. If this means splitting up a towns students to go to two different schools, I don't think it's a good idea.*
- ◆ *the travel time isn't too long for students.*
- ◆ *Enrollment supports it and schools are not half full*
- ◆ *students were <10 miles from home to school (GBS is 14 miles away - too far!)*
- ◆ *These questions are like press asking questions*
- ◆ *Yes, but if this creates a costly building project, I am not sure I would be as supportive.*
- ◆ *It won't make it much more difficult for rezoned students to get to and from school.*
- ◆ *the idea to combine the 2 into one was not doable. My first choice is to combine the 2 middle schools into 1.*
- ◆ *Thought they already were fairly close??? Although knew some special services are only available in SMS!?*
- ◆ *it lowers the TOTAL cost per student across all schools, not only middle school*
- ◆ *Yes, middle school and high school are separated*
- ◆ *Towns are not split.*
- ◆ *Combine the middle schools. Maybe have middle school be grades 6-8 with 5th grade staying at the elementary schools or have grades 5-7 in middle school and move 8th grade to high school*
- ◆ *Sounds like a reasonable concept. Wondering about the implementation -- whether that means that the middle schoolers from some towns would go to a different school depending upon what part of town they live in? Would the line shift depending upon the enrollment yearly, or over time?*
- ◆ *Not sure what an attendance zone is. If this plan reduces overall taxpayer cost I support it*

- ◆ *Depends on the location of the schools.*
- ◆ *The boundaries didn't change substantially and the demographics were equal (not a majority of large population towns kids and a few rural)*
- ◆ *Only if there is equity. The current inequity of facilities, programs, and extra curricular opportunities at South Meadow vs Great Brook is unacceptable.*
- ◆ *Once again, what will be the time a student spends on a bus, and look at the culture of the middle schools too.*
- ◆ *What does this question mean? As the ES data show, cost per student is a poor predictor of performance!*
- ◆ *Is this questions talking about soft borders with in towns or moving a town like Greenfield to Antrim? It's not clear in the questions (a common problem in your questions). Ultimately equity in education and opportunity between the schools is most important to me*
- ◆ *Have only one middle school, with more grades at the elementary school.*
- ◆ *all middle school students cannot fit in one building. I am frustrated with the inequities between offerings at the middle school, which would be eliminated if there was one school.*
- ◆ *Close both, send 5&6 back to elementary schools*
- ◆ *It makes more financial sense than combining into one.*
- ◆ *This is a stupid question.*
- ◆ *Only if it means keeping Peterborough Middle School OPEN*
- ◆ *Towns are kept together and not ½ to Peterborough and ½ to Antrim*

11. If the district really needed to reconfigure due to finances or troubles finding enough staff, please rank these reconfiguration options (1 is first choice): (n=388)

Option	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2 Elementary Schools, 1 Middle School, and 1 High School	28%	18%	11%	7%	8%	19%	10%
2-4 Elementary Schools and 1 combined Middle/High School	10%	21%	12%	13%	21%	16%	7%
8 K-8 and 1 High School	6%	8%	20%	21%	13%	18%	13%
8 K-5, 1 Middle School, and 1 High School	32%	17%	18%	21%	7%	5%	1%
8 K-5 Schools and 1 Middle/High School for grades 6-12	2%	15%	13%	18%	31%	14%	7%
8 K-6 Schools and 1 Middle/High School for grades 7-12	8%	16%	19%	14%	12%	25%	6%
Something Else	14%	5%	7%	7%	7%	3%	56%

12. You ranked “something else” in your top 3, please provide what you propose as an alternative option below: (n=92)

- ◆ *My kids went thru CV with 26 in their elementary class at GES, and almost 1,000 in HS. Also pre-k is not required, our tax dollars subsidies this program at \$22k per student with no state/ federal aid available. I do not want to expand this program.*
- ◆ *2 Elementary. PES and Use GBS as Elementary. 1 middle 1 high school.*
- ◆ *1 hs 1 ms 2-4 elementary schools*

- ◆ Exactly what we currently have. 8 elementary schools, preferably with pre-K, TWO middle schools, ONE high school.
- ◆ I think the district should look at different ways to cut costs. Equalize enrollment across the schools based on where students live rather than what town they live in. For example if a student lives in Peterborough but are near the town line with Dublin, send that student to Dublin. That would spread the costs across the schools rather than having a school with low enrollment and high cost per pupil.
- ◆ (6)K-5 (2)6-8 (1)HS
- ◆ Two middle schools 5-8 1 high 4-5 elementary
- ◆ 6 elementary schools k-5, 2 middle schools. 1 high school.
- ◆ 4 elementary schools configured as grade level schools with 2 preK-grade 2 schools and 2 grade 3-5 schools (two schools per grade level would maintain small class size but also allow more than one class per grade). 1 middle school grades 6-8 at SM to be able to access the high school. 1 high school
- ◆ 8 K-5 Schools, 2 Middle Schools, 1 High School
- ◆ 2-3 elementary, 2 middle schools, 1 high school
- ◆ 8 elementary schools K-6, 1 middle school, 1 high school
- ◆ 4 -5 Elementary Schools, 1 Middle, 1 HS
- ◆ 5 or 6 K-5 schools; 2 middle schools (6-8); 1 HS
- ◆ Rethink the old model of kids sitting in a classroom for 6 hours a day to 'learn'...Can they learn without a classroom? Could we re-think configurations that are not 1 teacher:1 group of elementary students... re-think the teacher role for more efficiency. evaluate WHY the costs are so high.
- ◆ SIX (6) ELeментарy schools K-5; 1 or 2 Middle Schools 6-8; HS 9-12
- ◆ I'm not sure any reconfiguration is necessary. If we do need to make a change, consider moving fifth graders to elementary schools in order to adjust per-pupil costs.
- ◆ I do not think that middle school students should be in same building as high school students. I also think that middle school is a difficult time and having 2 smaller middle schools is better than one. However, I would have 3 elementary schools, (Antrim, mid-district (any combo Bennington, Greenfield, Francestown, Hancock) Peterborough, 1 middle school 6-8 (prefer 2) High school
- ◆ Unsure. No one has provided enough information for any of us to make educated decisions. Saying 'save money' means absolutely nothing without showing what current costs are, what the savings will be and how it all relates to how the towns chose to incorporate that into tax savings.
- ◆ 6-8 K-4/5 schools. Two middle schools. One high school.
- ◆ Have Francestown join another school district. Neighboring school districts are better ranked and closer
- ◆ Don't have an idea yet.
- ◆ 4 or 5 k-5 elem schools 2 middle schools, 6-8, more evenly divided 1 high school
- ◆ Close the three most costly elementary schools, move those students to the elementary school to which they are closest and keep the two middle schools and the highschool.
- ◆ Close the schools but offer financial assistance for private schools.
- ◆ I think it's extreme to go from 8 elementary schools to 2-4 or even just 2. Maybe 5 elementary schools, 1 middle school and 1 high school? I don't like the idea of a grade 7-12 school unless the younger grades could be separated

- ◆ 3-4 elementary schools, 2 middle, 1 hs. I'm concerned with combining very young kids (3-4yr olds) with budding teenagers.
- ◆ Two middle schools, one high-school, 4-5 elementary schools.
- ◆ 1-2 schools of Prek – 1. 1-2 schools of 2 – 5. 1 school 6-8. 1 school 9-12
- ◆ 1 HS, 1 MS and 3 elementary schools - AES, PES and GES
- ◆ What about 6 elementary schools (closure of Temple and & Frankestown) and 1 Middle, 1 High School. This option is discussed other places in the survey, but not included here.
- ◆ 7 K-6 Elementary(Closing Peterborough - This makes more sense for bussing), 1 7-9 Jr. High, 1 10-12 High School
- ◆ increase funding to school through more state funds and raising taxes
- ◆ Over the years the district administration has grown tremendously. I would cut this area before anything else.
- ◆ 3-4 elementary schools; 1 middle school; 1 high school
- ◆ I don't want us closing our important small town community schools!!!! Being in walking distance is why I bought my house!!!! It was important to me for the kids to be in walking distance of their elementary school and I love our FES!!!!... Great staff and ratings!!!! Awesome wonderful family!!!! :(
- ◆ Raise \$\$ by charging on a sliding scale based on income for preK-3 and preK4, afterschool enrichment and academic tutoring services. If necessary sell SMS and turn Great Brook into a common middle school. Ages 12 and above can better sit on school buses than little kids. Put 9th graders in a middle school if necessary, rather than close an elementary.
- ◆ 5 K-5 elementary schools, one middle, and one high school
- ◆ 8 (k-6), 2(7-8), 1 HS
- ◆ 5 elementary schools K-5, 2 middle schools, 1 high school
- ◆ Reconfigure all school boundries (soft boarders) ie: Sharon and/students west of Old St road go to Temple. Peterborough students West of say MtView drive go to Dublin. Be flexible.
- ◆ 4 elementary schools going from K to 6 (blending the smallest geographically closest to PES, Antrim, Greenfield and keeping Hancock since it is one of the larger small schools. Having SMS and Conval as combined junior senior high school.
- ◆ 1 vocational high school. 1 general high school/ with middle school. 4 elementary schools (Lots of HS self directed ELO's that incorporate regional business collaborations. And the middle school would have mandatory outdoor/ farm/ conservation curriculum.
- ◆ 2 elementary schools, 2 Middle schools, 1 high School
- ◆ 8 k-5 schools, 2 Middle schools (6-9), 1 high school (10-12)
- ◆ Breakdown by geographical location rather than separated by town. Taxes should be spread evenly among towns regardless.
- ◆ In general, I suspect having 8 elementary schools is the most expensive options, but since you have not attached a dollar value to each option, it's difficult to put those in order
- ◆ 2-4 elementary schools, 1-2 middle schools, 1 high school
- ◆ 2-4 Elementary schools but keeping a middle school and a high school.
- ◆ 4 out of 7 options combined middle and high school. I don't believe those should be combined at all. Keep middle and high school separated.
- ◆ K-5 4 elementary schools 6-8 2 middle schools 9-12 one high school
- ◆ 5 Elementary Schools (combine a few towns), 1 middle school from g 6-9, 1 High School Soph thru Senior.
- ◆ 3-4 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 high school

- ◆ 2-4 Elementary Schools, 1 Middle School, 1 High School
- ◆ 3-4 Elementary Schools, 1-2 middle schools, 1 high school
- ◆ Fewer elementary schools, 2 middle schools, 1 high school
- ◆ 6 elementary 1 middle 1 HS
- ◆ Adjust zoning for existing elementary schools to create more equal numbers for the elementary school population. Or create magnets.
- ◆ 8 K-5 Elementary School, 1 6-8 Middle School, 1 9-12 High School
- ◆ 8 elementary schools through grade 6, 1 middle school 7-8, 1 high school, preschool in every elementary school
- ◆ Keep current set up
- ◆ Elementary schools, 1-2 middle schools, 1 high school,
- ◆ More than four but less than eight elementary schools
- ◆ 2-4 K-5 elementary, 1 middle, 1 high
- ◆ 4 K-5 schools, 1 or 2 middle schools, 1 highschool
- ◆ i have no idea but I didn't like the choices
- ◆ 3 Elementary schools K-6, 1 Middle school 7-8, 1 High school 9-12
- ◆ Close underutilized elementary schools, or taxpayers in the small towns can pay the cost difference between the average cost per student in the larger schools and the underutilized schools. Taxpayers in the small towns should be responsible for their choices. It's a zoning/development issues in some small towns. Towns without strict zoning should not be paying for other towns development decisions.
- ◆ 8 elementary schools K-8, 1 high school
- ◆ 8 K-6 1 middle 1 high
- ◆ I don't see the option for 2 middle schools. I would be in favor of elementary school going through 6th grade.
- ◆ 4 pre-K-5 elementary, two middle, 1 HS
- ◆ 4 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, 1 high school Or 4 elementary, 1 middle, 1 high
- ◆ Dissolve the Conval School District. Each Town makes their own plan.
- ◆ Having 8 elementary schools is the problem. I don't agree with any option that includes so many schools
- ◆ 2-4 elementary, 1 middle, 1 high
- ◆ Close 2 elementary schools that are farthest out but closest to other elementary schools to combine them
- ◆ 2-4 elementary, 1 middle, 1 high school
- ◆ 4-5 elementary schools, 1 middle school and 1 high school.
- ◆ 4-6 elem schools with k-6, 2 equal middles, 1hs.
- ◆ Pursue the funding lawsuit. Look at reducing the programs/facilities improvements at the high school (we've been dumping huge amounts of money there for years) in favor of funding to the elementary schools. In short, overhaul the district budget, starting with the Superintendent who is under-performing. Make admin salaries contingent on performance metrics. Scale back and return to the basics. It's evident by the reading & math scores presented at the beginning of this survey that too much effort is spent on things other than educating our kids.
- ◆ Just something different that keeps elementary, middle and high school in separate schools
- ◆ Fewer than 8 elementary schools (but 2-4 is complete insanity, I would say 6-7 elementary schools) with grades K-6, and one 7-12 high school. This would allow closure of both middle

schools and at least one elementary school. We do NOT need to have some insane plan to halve the number of elementary schools (or worse) and have huge schools or make people who already have good sized schools, which make more efficient use of funds, leave town for the sake of "fairness."

- ◆ *RAISE MONEY AND KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN AS K, ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH without closing schools or combining*
- ◆ *We should remove some towns from conval*
- ◆ *Keep two middle schools*
- ◆ *K-6 elementary schools, 1 7-8 middle school at SMS site, 1 high school.*
- ◆ *Close the small elementary schools, (Temple, Dublin, Francestown) so, 5 elementary schools, 2 middle and one highschool. Also consider reconfiguration of Hancock to just be the district pre-k program. This would maximize pre-k resources, including staff.*
- ◆ *Close 2 elementary schools, reconfigure middle schools to be even. I DO NOT believe elementary/middle/ and high school students should be mixed!!!*
- ◆ *4-6 elementary 2 middle 1 high*
- ◆ *2 - 3 K-5 elementary schools (Antrim, Peterborough, Greenfield (?), one 6 - 8 middle school (Peterborough), and one 9-12 high school (Peterborough). If Temple and Dublin don't like the ling bus ride then perhaps they can connect with other school districts.*

13. ConVal has considered reconfiguration options multiple times over the past 20 years but thus far taken no action. Student enrollment is not projected to increase much in the next decade. In your opinion, should ConVal take action on the reconfiguration question in 2024? (n=391)

Yes	63%
No	19%
Not Sure	18%

14. If there is a school district configuration question on the March 2024 ballot, do you plan to vote? (n=391)

Yes	95%
No	2%
Not Sure	4%

15. In what town do you currently reside? (n=389)

Antrim	6%
Bennington	4%
Dublin	8%
Francestown	8%
Greenfield	7%
Hancock	12%
Peterborough	41%
Sharon	3%
Temple	10%
Other	1%

16. How long have you lived in your current town? (n=391)

0-5 Years	23%
6-10 Years	19%
11-15 Years	10%
16-20 Years	12%
21+ Years	36%

17. What is your gender? (n=389)

Male	28%
Female	65%
Other	0.3%
Prefer Not To Say	6%

18. What is your age category? (n=386)

18-30	2%
31-40	16%
41-50	20%
51-60	17%
61+	44%

19. We have asked you these questions to help your school district improve. If you have any other ideas or thoughts about how ConVal could be improved, please tell us here. (n=182)

- ◆ *People are so angry and not trusting of their school board reps that I wonder if we should disband the district and let towns figure out elementary schools on their own, like in nearby Mason, NH.*
- ◆ *Stick to K-12 education before spending money on pre-k. We need foreign language earlier, more funding for STEM and arts during the school day. More focus on being work ready, how to act, dress, speak to others, etc.*
- ◆ *I'm glad you are trying to do something, my taxes are only going up and town and school programs are getting cut*
- ◆ *lower property taxes, increase field trips and more hands on learning, outdoor classrooms, hikes, gardens*
- ◆ *We need to start moving on this stuff. It has been years of talking. This problem has been around for a while. We all saw it coming. Start acting and less running around the bush.*
- ◆ *Respect students who achieve instead of the administration's handpicked favorites*
- ◆ *Stop fighting over the elementary schools and figure out how to make it work. Stop pitting the larger towns against the smaller towns. Stop pitting the smaller towns against each other. No one wants kindergarteners to spend upwards of an hour (each way) on a school bus every day. The transportation issues are extremely complex. No elementary school is currently in a position to absorb another elementary school. GES is currently at capacity as is BES/Pierce. If you have the idea to close FES, where are Frankestown's children going to go? All the way to Antrim? All the way to Peterborough? What is the district going to do with the buildings that will be left unused if elementary schools are closed? Sell them? I don't*

- think so. They will still need to be maintained. The expense of re-fitting any of the existing schools to absorb all the additional students resulting from school closures seems unnecessary. Most of the options in the previous questions would seem to suggest that closing one of the middle schools is very much 'on the table'. This is not a reasonable idea. Neither of the middle schools could handle the number of students if the two middle schools were combined. I also feel that for children to jump from a school of 50-150 students directly to a school of nearly 2000 students in one year is too shocking, too much of an adjustment. The middle school years provide that opportunity for children to adjust to a larger school with a larger population more gradually.*
- ◆ *I appreciate the opportunity to give thoughts. I am, however, disappointed in the way the information is presented. Raw accurate data is helpful—data skewed towards the outcome you prefer is not. We have only lived here a short time, but we moved here specifically for the school and the community. I feel removing small schools will deter from new families moving in, as I know we are not the only families who have moved here for this reason. Our school is amazing, and we love the small class size. If something really needs to change because of finances, then give us the real reason and let us all talk about it, but please don't present the information in this way.*
 - ◆ *Better reach out. I did not receive any emails for this until today. And it was forwarded to me by a friend*
 - ◆ *More input and out of the box thinking provided by an entity that doesn't already have obvious leanings toward the solution.*
 - ◆ *I have lived here for many years and have found the secondary education system to be manipulative and uninformative, and its administration fundamentally dishonest. My children got through by keeping their heads down and dodging bullets. I wish I'd had the money to send them elsewhere.*
 - ◆ *There are just too many questions that are still to be answered before I can say whether or not I would support consolidation. Until these questions are answered. I firmly believe we can no longer look at just numbers. A class of 10 can feel like 30 depending on needs of students. Sometimes, a class of 18 can be comfortable. We have to address the lack of support and how we are going to meet the needs of the mental health crisis in our children. How will consolidation address this? This needs to be talked about and I need to trust the answers before supporting any plan.*
 - ◆ *The middle/High school need to seriously consider changing start times. I think 8am works for all of the ages. It would still keep after school activities on the earlier side. I realize that would mean fitting all of the kids k-12 on the same bus. Not sure the buses have room. If they switched with the elementary kids than their after school activities may start and finish too late.*
 - ◆ *Please use the information gathered from the public along with your institutional knowledge of the district and education in NH to develop several viable options for public consideration. Then hold more public meetings to discuss the various options. Use the media to make sure all stakeholders are informed. It is far more important to get community buy in and support than to rush to a solution. I have seen nothing regarding teacher and other school professional input. Their educational expertise must be included, especially for a reconfiguration. There is a persistent feeling within the communities of this being a "done deal". There will always be naysayers but the majority support their local schools and especially their teachers. Engage them to help redesign a district that is educationally sound and challenging, welcoming, nurturing, safe, enriching, enjoyable while addressing the*

- difficult fiscal realities. A district they can be proud of and feel confident in its ability to provide an excellent education.*
- ◆ *Insist that the state finally contributes the \$ amount per pupil that is consistent with its obligation to support public education; stop making citizens pay for private, religious and for profit schools under the false flag of "choice". Put that money toward public education for everyone.*
 - ◆ *Normalize class sizes of 18-20 elementary students and close these small schools. Thanks for all you do to help kids!*
 - ◆ *Have you looked at other options to provide revenue for local elementary schools?*
 - ◆ *The discussion of closing elementary schools is at the expense of what is right for the ConVal economic community. This will stagnate any growth and we will become a ghost town. This is a short sighted concept and we need to think about and consider the implications of 10 years down the road and what becomes of the towns in the Conval school district!*
 - ◆ *I am not opposed to reconfiguration as a way to resolve potential challenges faced by changing demographics in the school district. At this point in time, I think that it is wise for the board to gather information about possible options and community ideas, but I also don't think that they should put anything on the ballot for at least 3-5 more years. The world is changing and we need good information so that we are prepared to make changes if and when we need to, but doing so prematurely will only cause more problems than it solves. Reducing district infrastructure (physical, administrative, and other) will essentially be a one-way process. Any infrastructure we loose will be extremely difficult to put back in place if we find that it is needed.*
 - ◆ *Middle/high schools are a terrible idea. Consolidating elementary school kids with other elementary school kids makes a lot of sense.*
 - ◆ *It is very tiring revisiting this issue. Do something now!*
 - ◆ *1 middle school 4 elem if needed*
 - ◆ *If we go through this process there needs to be a change, not another discussion that lasts 20+ years.*
 - ◆ *We need management team to recognize they need to adjust staff when enrollment goes down.*
 - ◆ *One concern I have is what happens if enrollment grows again in the future and we've lost ownership of all these schools? School populations tend to ebb and flow over decades. Could schools rent out space for programs for elderly people in communities and/or preschools? This could provide some great interaction between young and old, something sorely missing in our current society. Different countries and communities have had great success with this. Such an option could keep ownership of buildings but also generate revenue from elder programs, after-school programs, preschool programs."*
 - ◆ *When considering per pupil costs, are you taking into consideration how young or seasoned the staff is that is teaching at each school? Schools with younger staffing (such as Hancock) will have lower personnel costs that a school like Dublin. In the question regarding test scores, what grade's scores are being represented? It doesn't seem very accurate to only show one grade's values considering the different levels of academic disruption that they might have experience with the Covid Pandemic. The sample that you are asking people to weigh in on is too narrow a view.*
 - ◆ *Need better communication between parents and school staff. As a single divorced male it has been a constant struggle to get informed of school activity with my son.*

- ◆ *First, combine the middle schools offering the same combined programs and extra curricular activities, pause on any changes at the HS level-and only then combine some elementary with neighboring schools, i.e Frankestown and Greenfield, Dublin and Hancock*
- ◆ *1) Take a hard look at the budget and administrative staffing levels;*
- ◆ *2) Decertify the teachers' union and pay teachers for results as well as experience;*
- ◆ *3) Insist on high behavior standards at every level;*
- ◆ *4) Stop wasting teaching and learning energy on gender identification nonsense.*
- ◆ *Re-think whole teaching/learning process and consider ways to deliver outcomes in reading/math that are not the same old thing.*
- ◆ *Tell me what I will save as a tax payer per 1000 dollars property value each year if DCS is removed.....*
- ◆ *Change is difficult. Proper planning, caring relocation of students and staff is critical. Also, what is Lionheart doing that parents like? dislike? 55 kids is significant district impact.*
- ◆ *We are proud to be a part of ConVal, and our children are thriving academically. Please support our kids and wonderful teachers, and keep our excellent schools open.*
- ◆ *I had 3 children attend Conval schools between 1983- 2006. what some parents in other towns need to know that in Peterborough even when families were a 10 min drive to Peterborough schools some kids were often on the bus up to an hour!*
- ◆ *There needs to be more info shared with the public to fully educate them. Writing your report in a vacuum (without actual feedback on the options, not just 'what ifs", is sure to keep us where we have been the last 20 years - spending money that seems to be in short supply on proposals that go nowhere.*
- ◆ *Bring Zoning reform into the conversation. We have towns/schools that are desirable and plenty of open jobs. The enrollment is dropping because we don't let people build enough houses. Just change the zoning and we can stop or even reverse the enrollment decline.*
- ◆ *Use of computers for instruction is excessive. Books can be better in many courses.*
- ◆ *I know middle school children need sports fields and hope reconfiguration does not eliminate fields. Preschool in Antrim is important considering the diversity of families there including my great grandchildren.*
- ◆ *communications to ALL tax payers with information collected*
- ◆ *Reducing schools should be avoided due to the impact that will have on the families who will have to make significant changes to their personal and professional routines to accommodate.*
- ◆ *Why waste \$200k on a consultant? This is a common sense question. Keeping schools open for less than 100 students is idiocy.*
- ◆ *possibly pair some neighboring town schools like bennington & frankestown, temple & greenfield, hancock & dublin and have grades 1 - 3 (or K - 2) be at one school and grades 4 - 6 (or 3 - 5) be at the other in order to create larger classes and so need fewer teachers. I would keep K and pre-K in the hometowns if possible. I also recommend looping teachers teachers with a class for three years. In Finland students perform very well on standardized test and it is very common to have the same teacher with a class for three years. This way the teacher really knows the students' needs and learning styles and can more effectively teach. See: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/22/opinion/education-us-teachers-looping.html#:~:text=Finland%20and%20Estonia%20go%20even,to%20specialize%20in%20their%20students.>*

- ◆ *We should like at more usage of on-line learning to help increase our course options and more individualization. We could put less emphasis on 4 years to graduate high school and graduate more students if they wish when they finish their requirements.*
- ◆ *Fix the toxic administration and look into how much is spent on unnecessary expenses. Raise taxes to pay for more vocational education pertinent to the businesses and needs of the area we live in which would actually interest high school students. Treat teachers better so you keep them.*
- ◆ *Data presented earlier was not helpful. Why was the chart with reading and math scores colored differently.*
- ◆ *Fewer standardized tests, more homework, tougher grading standards (e.g., no retaking tests for bad grades after 8th grade)*
- ◆ *Keep more students in town for longer before going to Peterborough for high school. Better for students and likely cheaper for district.*
- ◆ *Reduce administrative staff and sau to save money. Focus on skills that will get meaningful jobs at the High School level. Vocational traing.*
- ◆ *Thank you for undertaking this effort.*
- ◆ *Need more information to how it could be improved.*
- ◆ *Reduce courses to reduce cost*
- ◆ *Get the Legislature to adequately fund education even if it means an income and/or sales tax.*
- ◆ *8 Elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 high school (unable to rank choices 2 pages ago). families will not move to towns with no elementary school. Bring back 5 and/or 6 graders to the elementary schools*
- ◆ *Later school start times for Middle & HS*
- ◆ *I think this is a very critical process which has lacked the leadership and votes to move forward and it is way past due for the sake of our children's best interests and future as well as the infrastucture that can no longer support the status quo. We have grandkids in a different school district in NH and see the benefit of consolidation. Thank you!*
- ◆ *Increase tech/career education at middle and high school graduating students early but directly to community College or training program. Graduation with career skills.*
- ◆ *When are you going to start talking about reducing taxes. ???? I would like to hear about that. But I know that is not in the schools vocabulary*
- ◆ *The most cost efficient and best educationally effective way to educate all our students is achievable. Enough talking, Lets do it !*
- ◆ *Treat teachers with the highest regard and have their pay and benefits aligned with that. Teachers deserve more. If some teachers have to be let go in the school district improvement plan, give the departing teachers good payment packages. If some teachers have to be relocated to different schools, give them bonus pay to offset the longer commutes and inconvenience. Teachers deserve professional care.*
- ◆ *I think this process could be improved by using a truly unbiased company that knows how to write surveys. Through my own work and experience with surveys it's clear that these questions are generated by the board and the wording and inconsistencies across questions is giving poor data. There is a science to surveys and it's clearly not being used here.*
- ◆ *Preschools should be in all elementary schools. After-school care should be available in all elementary schools. The School Board should stop wasting taxpayer dollars for something the towns do not want, which they have heard loud and clear multiple times!!! They need to*

- remember that they work for us, the taxpayer and they need to stop trying to push their own personal agendas.*
- ◆ *Accept that different schools have different costs. It's a misguided goal to equalize the cost per student among different schools. Don't ruin our good school system.*
 - ◆ *Schools need funding and are the back-bone of the local communities in the smaller towns. I see no mention of increasing funds, only adjustments suggested based on funding levels decreasing. The result is both the previous meetings in each town and this survey present very limited options because they do not address the whole issue. This is especially true in the ranking options which could falsely make unfavorable options appear popular. You ask for other options, so please consider increasing funding through additional state/federal funding, taxes, grants, etc.*
 - ◆ *Re school starting time: Long ago the elementary students had the early start time. The time was switched so that athletes would not need to leave school early for games. With so many fields having "lights" now, this may no longer be an issue. Many questions seem to be "loaded". Most doing away with one middle school - bad choice unless the k-8 model is used, but does that mean a huge new building project? When dealing with scores, please remember we are dealing with people. Move the people and the same issues will just be relocated.*
 - ◆ *Thank you for raising the issue of delaying school start time. This is really important and our 2 middle schoolers would greatly value a later start time. However, please be careful on how it is approached. We'd love for it to be folded into changes - if they pass - but don't want voters to vote against it if they are voting against reconfiguration which could vote down a good idea around delaying start time.*
 - ◆ *Try to keep the kids no further than a town away IF this is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!!!!!! Allow us parents to be able to continue to send our kids to schools w GOOD ratings!!!!... Not all thrown into one big cattle pen!!*
 - ◆ *Stop threatening to close the elementary schools*
 - ◆ *Concentrate on reading and math proficiency at the elementary level. Unless you learn to love reading and numbers early, education will always be hard later on. Add more career counseling earlier to reflect the needs of the state in professions like tourism, medical services, construction, electricians, counselors, Teach kids the importance of communications, defusing anger, mediation, respect for others opinions, responsibility for school and class officers and how to cite evidence to back up an opinion. Start a foreign language early... Spanish and Chinese would be good options.*
 - ◆ *Increase staff pay to improve retention; separate clinical pay scales from teacher pay scales; allow certain positions (i.e. clinicians) the option of working from home on meeting and paperwork days; allow staff to do more PD courses from home*
 - ◆ *research how a child/adults sense of community is affected by large vs small schools*
 - ◆ *I think the data shown here is not fully representative of the whole picture. And you are asking voters to make decisions without all of the facts.*
 - ◆ *I think The conservation organizations, Town planning departments, farm / food organizations, and other large area companies need to have middle and high school internships where students receive credit and guidance as an active part students school experience.*
 - ◆ *Reduce administrators... increase teaching staff*
 - ◆ *All teachers have assistant teachers in their classrooms*
 - ◆ *All teachers be trained in Executive Functioning skills, it is beneficial for all students*

- ◆ *All kids have outside recess, including hs*
- ◆ *Teaching instruction/lecture should be no more than 20 minutes*
- ◆ *Teaching needs to be more than one modality, kids don't all learn the same way*
- ◆ *We need alternative ideas to traditional gym classes, not all kids are into sports.*
- ◆ *I think if the little schools mean so much the towns, ask them how much it's worth to them financially. If they want the schools bad enough, have them figure out how to make ends meet. We need more early childhood programs and after care. Dublin would be a GREAT location for that!*
- ◆ *I don't necessarily have more thoughts, but I think you should keep coming up with ideas, because they are not very appealing.*
- ◆ *Education is most effective when there is parental involvement. ConVal has not done what it could to encourage this involvement. They could assign a teacher to assist home education through out the district, and actively encourage this form of education instead of treating it as competition. Home educators can provide quality education for a fraction of the cost and it saves the district tons of money.*
- ◆ *Please stop with the biased manner in which questions are asked. Questions should be asked in an objective manner without including unproven assumptions like would you like this configuration "even if means less services" since one does not necessarily follow the other and implies severe bias and steering toward a particular answer which smacks of an agenda. This makes me mistrust the whole process.*
- ◆ *I think practicality, efficiency and resource allocation are top priorities, but I also don't want elementary students spending all day on the bus, or being far from home. Additionally, I think it's important to keep 6th & 7th, but also even 8th graders slightly separated from the influences of high school-age teens. Children of this age have not developed enough yet to reason through safe and sound decision-making, and I worry about the consequences of prematurely exposing, or even immersing, them to the types of choices high school age kids face daily.*
- ◆ *Don't rush this decision to save a quick buck. I would delay a vote for a year to allow for a thorough and complete study to be performed. I would really like to see how a cross section of ConVals costs compare to schools across the state and even across the country*
- ◆ *Consultants to review options and show alternatives with cost savings for each for residents to review.*
- ◆ *I think you are doing a good job trying to cover all the bases and questions. This is a very difficult situation as most people with children don't want to lose their local schools. If you can work around keeping local elementary schools and consolidating them and the middle schools, the vote might have a chance.*
- ◆ *I have grandchildren in the district, a question that no one asked. Close the elm schools in these small towns. These poor kids are trapped with the same kids for years, teachers have no peers to collaborate with.... lets just get it done. Resources can be combined. There are so so many reasons to combine them.*
- ◆ *Young children benefit greatly from attending school in their home town and developing a close connection with their community. This benefit is difficult to quantify but I have seen it revealed clearly through the years. Following up with older students and later when these same students have children of their own, the value of such early community connection is reaffirmed. Please take this factor into consideration. Thank you. Older students benefit more by coming into contact with students from other towns and by having the opportunity to meet a greater variety of individuals with different personalities, backgrounds, ideas,*

- creative tendencies, etc. I believe that one consolidated middle school and one consolidated high school would work well.*
- ◆ *Do what is best for the education of the children within reasonable budgetary constraints*
 - ◆ *I've been through this process as an administrator and as a parent in my home district. Do your homework, and make decisions based on facts.*
 - ◆ *Be more transparent!! Safety steps should be taken and shared with the community. Address the pay scale of the superintendent and give that money to better teachers.*
 - ◆ *Stop serving children ultra-processed food*
 - ◆ *I am looking forward to another community presentation with open conversations about future school district plans. I think we all would come to a better decision after listening to taxpayers share pro/con opinions.*
 - ◆ *Start forcing parents to be parents. Quit trying to make teachers and the district responsible for the upbringing of children.*
 - ◆ *Focus your attention on improving student outcomes first and foremost. Allow teachers to be more creative and up-to-date on teaching and learning methods in the classrooms and beyond. Encourage more teacher development. Less unnecessary administrative burdens placed on districts.*
 - ◆ *I am a retired public school elementary principal and have never worked in a town where the 5th grade was not part of the elem school. Also am British and children in the U.K. go to Senior School at age 11-18. It works there.*
 - ◆ *We need a new Superintendent.*
 - ◆ *We need to seriously consider whether the requirements of taking federal funding are worth it. Clearly the costs to the tax payers to meet these requirements are not improving student achievements. Maybe we do not need the federal funds (what % of the school budget is from federal or state money), and then we can cut free to actually teach students in ways that are effective...the way teachers want to teach, rather than how they have to teach.*
 - ◆ *I think about the cost I pay to send my other child to daycare nearly an hour away because I can't find suitable childcare here and I consider it a huge missed opportunity for the region. If paid preschool were an option, I would gladly spend the nearly \$30k each year on that instead of a private daycare further away.*
 - ◆ *Increase salary for Teachers to attract the best of the best. Consider a larger Volunteer team - increase use of PTO. Inspire Communities to be more involved with Education/Extracurricular activities. Creativity is important*
 - ◆ *Use the tax savings from this for free school lunch for all kids, no means testing. Be an example to the rest of the state. The whole state of ME and MA do it.*
 - ◆ *Why do we have a declining student population yet an ever-growing number of administrators? Why have academics declined so much? The cost/benefits ratio is terrible.*
 - ◆ *The question where you are asked to list reconfiguration options best to worst is awful. There were no options for 4-6 elementary schools even though we were asked earlier if we supported that option. My top 2 answers were the only ones that I possibly support.*
 - ◆ *For the administration to stop giving in to every parent to make them happy and actually make decisions, including tough decisions, to benefit the students in the long run. Also helping teachers want to stay in the district by better supporting the teachers.*
 - ◆ *I do not support 5th and 6th graders with high school students*
 - ◆ *Please look at the administration. The leadership team is not good. There are many ways costs could be controlled with creative thinking, dedication to supporting our teachers and*

- students but we need new leadership and fresh eyes and ideas. Reconfiguration may help in some ways but it is not the only answer.
- ◆ *Bring back self contained classrooms for students who need more support than they will get in a regular Ed classroom.*
 - ◆ *If layoffs are necessary, just rip off the bandaid. Education is business; if the business is failing, close the business!*
 - ◆ *Do what is best for the education of the children within the constraints of a reason budget*
 - ◆ *Listen to your communities. There are reasons they have consistently voted to keep their small schools. Find a way to preserve the parts they love: community, positive individual relationships, traditions, support from and to the local area. Give them options rather than making them feel their being forced into something they've repeatedly said that they do not want.*
 - ◆ *Research the value of small class sizes...*
 - ◆ *By forming ConVal, the towns has said that they feel equal responsibility of the quality of education of students from all towns and not just the one they live in. Any decision should reflect this or ConVal should break up. I would find that a sad day. However if ConVal provide a baseline amount for a student from each town that is deemed adequate to provide a quality education in a number of schools that create cost effective schools and then an individual town wants to top off with local tax dollars to maintain a small school in their town I think that would be a fair resolution.*
 - ◆ *Equal opportunities amongst the elementary schools in regards to 'specials'. Peterborough/Antrim students have a rotating special each day of the week while the other schools share one art teacher.*
 - ◆ *Could we consider Pk-2 schools, 3-5 schools, 6-8 schools and 9-12?*
 - ◆ *Administration improvement. Why is there so much turnover? Many are choosing to homeschool or seem alternative options due to the lack of faith in the district. This can be changed.*
 - ◆ *I would appreciate honesty from Prismatic rather than skewed facts which shows a clear agenda. The surveys and the data-gathering nights at different towns was laughable and maddening. I was extremely offended that this is how Conval would gather data. It was an extremely poor reflection on the district.*
 - ◆ *All the high school students I've spoken to say that their school is bad. What do the students want? Is it reasonable?*
 - ◆ *Please consider the small communities. Many decisions appear to be based on what Peterborough wants.*
 - ◆ *Using district finances more wisely is important.*
 - ◆ *Cut administration*
 - ◆ *New school district leadership.*
 - ◆ *Please make a choice! Please move forward with this! We need a decision! This "threat" of closing isn't helpful for families. Something HAS to be done. Just move forward with the choice that has the most votes or benefits the most people. If we aren't projected to have a child increase in 10 years, why are we waiting?*
 - ◆ *I have a lot of ideas but they do not pertain to the questions you have presented. I'm very disappointed in the quality of education these kids receive. My kids went to St. Pat's. If I had children in the school system now, they would not be attending ConVal!!*
 - ◆ *kids with emotional and/or physical disabilities need a different environment than what the public school offers. housing these kids in the current schools is expensive, harmful to these*

- students and to the other students, and it is extremely difficult on the teachers and administrators.*
- ◆ *It is time for new leadership: It is time for a new superintendent.*
 - ◆ *More emails informing on meetings times*
 - ◆ *Consider whether Dublin students could attend elementary school in Harrisville - who would then have the option of choosing either ConVal or Keene High.*
 - ◆ *Stop teaching to the bottom. Create more opportunities for the top half of the class. Emphasize excellence and performance. Back to basics building administration - Discipline, homework, etc. Show the community empirical data and results. Standardized testing is not evil! Teach to the test if necessary!*
 - ◆ *Charge the towns what their students cost!*
 - ◆ *It is not clear what happens if there is no reconfiguration. Will tax rates go down? Where will the savings be applied?*
 - ◆ *I really don't like the idea of K-8 schools, I think that's way too many age ranges to successfully educate together. I also think middle school is it's own unique age group that should not be combined with high school. It seems the problem lies in having too many elementary schools, and that's where the focus of reconfiguration should lie.*
 - ◆ *I worry about the bussing and how long kids will be on the busses for if we combine. I also worry about the age gaps of the kids being combined.*
 - ◆ *I think it's important that you include a question about whether you've ever had a student at ConVal (not just if you have a student there now). My daughter graduated from ConVal and had a wonderful experience. While I don't have a student there now, I'm committed to an excellent public school experience for all students in the district. And my opinions are informed by her K-12 student experience. I feel that my opinion should not be discounted.*
 - ◆ *I wholeheartedly believe middle/high school start time should be later- but also believe a single tier start time would be best. Please don't just flip the elementary to earlier- it's tooo early.*
 - ◆ *Some parents may not object to having their kids bussed to smaller elementary schools if offered the same resources.*
 - ◆ *Redefine bullying and hold others accountable versus trying to placate parents. This is the main reason I have heard of students being removed from school and placed into either private school or homeschooled, mine included.*
 - ◆ *Have community support their own elementary school.*
 - ◆ *Wrote above: stop using public tax dollars for private/christian/homeschooling. That \$\$\$ should support public schools & teachers.*
 - ◆ *All these changes MUST include better wages for teachers and paras.*
 - ◆ *Look at what the district does best, consider each school and the impacts if closed, look at similar size districts. Concord, though not like ConVal School District, they combined all their neighborhood elementary schools, maybe now ten years ago.*
 - ◆ *The current political climate in NH is anti-public education. More than ever, teachers need support and the district should be making efforts to improve teacher morale.*
 - ◆ *Anyone should be able to see that fixed costs are a major factor and that smaller enrollment does not equate with superior performance. Those students are being cheated. How do special education services factor into this? How limited are such services due to travel times? Just getting people together for an IEP must be a challenge. Why is there no discussion of this? Do we have no need for Special Ed services?"*
 - ◆ *It is a very difficult situation but we cannot afford not to change!*

- ◆ *Hold more public discussions.*
- ◆ *Work with a consulting company that can actually help the process, the questions being asked are not developed from a professional survey research center and undermine the credibility of the process. There is absolutely no way costs can be equal among different towns, there are too many different variables, I can't understand why the survey would keep presenting that.*
- ◆ *Most questions seemed incredible biased towards the closing of some schools. Only until question 11 were other options fully addressed. Better surveys and forums would have included discussions of those options: feasibility, costs, etc.*
- ◆ *I don't feel like the long term impacts and ripple effects of closing elementary schools is being considered here, and I think that's really important. In terms of improving the district I think there are some issues aside from finances and student achievement not being discussed. For example, teacher shortages are a nationwide issue, but why are conval teachers leaving? I'm aware of some situations at the high school where staff is leaving because they feel unsupported by administration. What can the district do that doesn't cost money to improve the culture and support of teachers?*
- ◆ *Keep HES!*
- ◆ *The more schools can be consolidated, the more opportunities for support students will have.*
- ◆ *Reduce number of administrators, reduce the size of buildings to lower operating costs.*
- ◆ *Fill buildings with teachers and communities, not administrators.*
- ◆ *1. Don't spend so much money flying in a consultant to try to convince us to close schools because of money. 2. Do more PR!! Let the voters know what great things are going on at the schools. 3. Make the state pay its fair share of the school budget.*
- ◆ *As a former educator with a masters degree in Literacy and Elementary Education I think the idea of restructuring the schools to create a higher teacher to student ratio absolutely absurd. I would move my 3 children out of the ConVal school district if the school structure were to change.*
- ◆ *Having been a teacher of grade five in another state, grade five and hopefully grade six should remain in an elementary school.*
- ◆ *I think we need to get away from town lines and provide even offerings across schools. This isn't possible in the current model because of the funding discrepancies. Let's gather together and do what is right for our students.*
- ◆ *I have lived in Temple, Hancock and Peterborough for 30 years. My kids graduated from Conval. Please do not take rural schools from families that already commute too far for work. I am also sure that k-8 or k-7 is better than combined middle/high school. It really is too much for kids to be sent with these older but young adults*
- ◆ *We need more or higher taxes to pay for needed schooling.*
- ◆ *Reduce expenses- taxes way too high for retired people*
- ◆ *I love all the reconfiguration ideas but need to see the information in combination to make a decision ie # of schools, added/reduced programs, cost of building reconfigurations to make it work, bussing, plans for what is done with closed schools. I would love to hear some creative ideas to use the elementary schools if they do close.*
- ◆ *Whenever a plan is presented, it should be fully thought out and take into consideration costs, student travel time, future population changes, etc. Not just to make a deadline of this year.*
- ◆ *Keep conservatives and religion out of school decisions*
- ◆ *It looks like Dublin & Temple students could both go to PES.*

- ◆ *I am a retired educator and completely support public education. Most of our property taxes go towards supporting our schools. I expect our tax dollars to be spent responsibly. I have been disappointed with how those funds have been allocated by the ConVal District during the recent decade. If enrollment had increased, I would have supported increased funding to meet the associated needs of that. But, enrollment has decreased without responding in a related manner. It is wasteful and irresponsible to maintain two middle schools when either building can sufficiently meet the needs of students attending both. There is no need to maintain two campuses and certainly no need for two groups of administrators and teachers with low enrollment levels in some classes. The same is true with the elementary schools in a few towns. It is irresponsible to maintain elementary schools with less than 100 students simply because some people prefer to have them closer to where they chose to live. There has been reports of staffing shortages and a response suggesting higher pay is the solution. NO to that. Downsize the number of facilities and eliminate the excess that exists by having teachers and administrators working in schools with low enrollment. The staffing shortage will be addressed in a responsible manner that will result in a reduction of expenses Rathaus an increase. Enough already. The mismanagement of tax funds is making it very hard to continue being a supporter of our school district. It must stop.*
- ◆ *Consider sending teams comprised of teachers, board members, and current parents to visit districts that have implemented re-configurations like those being considered at Conval. Also, consider ways to facilitate sharing of teaching methodologies that emphasize relevance and stimulate creativity and independence—as reported by students.*
- ◆ *You have asked these questions based on financial issues. I didn't feel that the earlier community forums were useful at all. Next time don't use Prismatic. Have a real, in-person, question/answer/comment session in each town as part of the process.*
- ◆ *I've been taking these Conval surveys for 20 years now, and it's all [language]. Get your act together and make decisions based on credible educational data and expert best practices, not on what the uninformed public thinks according to these ridiculous, amateur-hour surveys, that people can complete as many times as they want. Show some educational leadership and make the decisions that are truly best for our kids! For example, we've known for years now that the high school school start time is way too early for teenagers. We've also known for years that the district has no will to change. It's insulting to be continually polled, year after year, on this topic. Change the school start time already! Or, if you're not going to, stop asking us what we think!*
- ◆ *Unfortunately, your "public forums" were bogus and not at all as advertised so you didn't get to hear from the communities. If you are really interested in what the community has to say and possible ideas, hold TRUE public forums where folks can share their ideas freely and not walk around putting tokens in poorly written questions. The Conval district has never acted as though they really want to hear from the public. One way to improve conval is to stop spending money on fancy sports fields and put money into the curriculum. Rejoin the Conant/Conval/Mascenic Coop that we used to have. Schools were able to offer more programs and kids could bus to which ever school had the course they were interested in. My kids who graduated back in 2005 and 2008 got a much better education choice because of the the Coop (Conval/Conant/Mascenic) than my kid who graduated in 2012 when the coop had been disbanded. Bring it back and share resources.*
- ◆ *Change articles of agreement in order to make a change possible.*
- ◆ *My number one complain is that there are no foreign language classes at the middle school level, and French is not offered in a district in a state which borders Quebec. I took a foreign*

language in 7th grade in 1989, and since that time, many schools have expanded foreign language instruction to the elementary level, so I have been shocked and disappointed that ConVal does not offer it until 9th grade. It seems like ConVal has gone completely backwards in this regard. And, French is a major language of international business, not just spoken in Canada and France, but in African countries and many other places. (As an aside, I would like to make clear that in Peterborough, many people do not have children until they are in their 30s or even over 40, so there are plenty of people in the over 40 category who have elementary school-aged children. Don't make assumptions when looking at the demographics of those who complete surveys.)

- ◆ *Better teachers that are not feeling they are at school to work.*
- ◆ *Close both middle schools. Bring 5&6 back to all elementary schools- one 7-12 middle, high school*
- ◆ *Don't hire so called experts to skew everything towards a pre-determined goal while projecting the facade of fairness. Leading questions, pitting towns against each other.*
- ◆ *More needs to be done to make Peterborough aware of our voting issue - the fact that our school vote is separate from the town voting.*
- ◆ *Stop asking people if they are ok with closing schools. It's just focuses on the negative without citing the positive. As I understand it, there are quite a few benefits to closing schools. Specifically, shorter bus rides for students across the district, improved educational performance at the larger more efficient schools, and potentially lower taxes. If you just ask people if they're okay with closing schools, the answer is going to be no. But if the trade-off is, do you want eight elementary schools, low performance and high taxes versus five elementary schools, high performance and low taxes... Well, I'm pretty sure I know how most folks would vote*
- ◆ *Well for one, I have noticed the reading percentile for ALL schools in the district to be less than 70%. After reading this survey it seems even the ones "in charge" cannot be bothered to use proper grammar or spell check their work before submitting it. Perhaps a stronger focus on the basics, i.e. reading, writing and arithmetic, and less focus on pronouns and serial orientation would be a better use of our tax dollars. Our public schools are a disgrace across the country and ConVal is no better. There's lots of reasons for the mass exodus from the public schools. Maybe the powers that be should pay more attention to THOSE THINGS.*
- ◆ *My answers are informed as a former public school teacher in a district that went through this process while my own child attended it.*
- ◆ *Keep the neurodivergent students in mind and have more proactive services verses crisis management and not having students fail before they get help.*
- ◆ *Consider greater taxes for the small school towns, to offset the cost difference. Want a small school, pay for it through your own taxes. The cost difference between Temple and the other schools is outrageous.*
- ◆ *Improve vo-tec at high-school and stop tuition to other schools. Get more certification programs and career training.*

By Town

Dublin Responses n = 32	Yes	Not Sure / Only If	No
Would you be supportive of a plan that reduced the number of elementary schools from 8 to 5 or 6 schools?	31%	19%	50%
Would you be supportive of a plan that reduced the number of elementary schools from 8 to 3 or 4 schools?	16%	13%	72%
Would you be supportive of a plan that spent the same amount of money per student across elementary schools even if that meant some elementary schools would not get the same resources as others?	20%	23%	57%
Would you be supportive of a plan that moved all 5th graders into the elementary schools, even if it meant less extracurricular opportunities for those students?	74%	10%	16%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer PreK in all remaining elementary sites?	22%	13%	66%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer afterschool care in all remaining elementary sites?	22%	13%	66%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer more academic opportunities at the high school?	23%	13%	65%
Would you be supportive of one middle school instead of two?	59%	22%	19%
Research overwhelmingly supports a later start for secondary students and earlier start for elementary students. Would you be supportive of a plan to change school reporting times for secondary students?	78%	16%	6%
In order to spend the same amount of money per student across middle schools, would you support adjusting middle school attendance zones to create two middle schools of roughly equal size?	28%	41%	31%
ConVal has considered reconfiguration options multiple times over the past 20 years but thus far taken no action. Student enrollment is not projected to increase much in the next decade. In your opinion, should ConVal to take action on the reconfiguration question in 2024?	31%	25%	44%
If there is a school district configuration question on the March 2024 ballot, do you plan to vote?	100%	0%	0%

Fracestown Responses**n = 32**

	Yes	Not Sure / Only If	No
Would you be supportive of a plan that reduced the number of elementary schools from 8 to 5 or 6 schools?	22%	19%	59%
Would you be supportive of a plan that reduced the number of elementary schools from 8 to 3 or 4 schools?	19%	6%	75%
Would you be supportive of a plan that spent the same amount of money per student across elementary schools even if that meant some elementary schools would not get the same resources as others?	19%	34%	47%
Would you be supportive of a plan that moved all 5th graders into the elementary schools, even if it meant less extracurricular opportunities for those students?	66%	19%	16%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer PreK in all remaining elementary sites?	19%	13%	69%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer afterschool care in all remaining elementary sites?	9%	9%	81%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer more academic opportunities at the high school?	16%	10%	74%
Would you be supportive of one middle school instead of two?	41%	28%	31%
Research overwhelmingly supports a later start for secondary students and earlier start for elementary students. Would you be supportive of a plan to change school reporting times for secondary students?	84%	9%	6%
In order to spend the same amount of money per student across middle schools, would you support adjusting middle school attendance zones to create two middle schools of roughly equal size?	31%	53%	16%
ConVal has considered reconfiguration options multiple times over the past 20 years but thus far taken no action. Student enrollment is not projected to increase much in the next decade. In your opinion, should ConVal to take action on the reconfiguration question in 2024?	28%	19%	53%
If there is a school district configuration question on the March 2024 ballot, do you plan to vote?	100%	0%	0%

Hancock Responses n = 44	Yes	Not Sure / Only If	No
Would you be supportive of a plan that reduced the number of elementary schools from 8 to 5 or 6 schools?	33%	37%	30%
Would you be supportive of a plan that reduced the number of elementary schools from 8 to 3 or 4 schools?	22%	17%	61%
Would you be supportive of a plan that spent the same amount of money per student across elementary schools even if that meant some elementary schools would not get the same resources as others?	16%	27%	58%
Would you be supportive of a plan that moved all 5th graders into the elementary schools, even if it meant less extracurricular opportunities for those students?	62%	24%	13%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer PreK in all remaining elementary sites?	29%	27%	44%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer afterschool care in all remaining elementary sites?	22%	16%	62%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer more academic opportunities at the high school?	25%	30%	45%
Would you be supportive of one middle school instead of two?	48%	33%	20%
Research overwhelmingly supports a later start for secondary students and earlier start for elementary students. Would you be supportive of a plan to change school reporting times for secondary students?	72%	20%	9%
In order to spend the same amount of money per student across middle schools, would you support adjusting middle school attendance zones to create two middle schools of roughly equal size?	37%	52%	11%
ConVal has considered reconfiguration options multiple times over the past 20 years but thus far taken no action. Student enrollment is not projected to increase much in the next decade. In your opinion, should ConVal to take action on the reconfiguration question in 2024?	52%	30%	17%
If there is a school district configuration question on the March 2024 ballot, do you plan to vote?	93%	7%	0%

Peterborough Responses n = 159	Yes	Not Sure / Only If	No
Would you be supportive of a plan that reduced the number of elementary schools from 8 to 5 or 6 schools?	69%	25%	6%
Would you be supportive of a plan that reduced the number of elementary schools from 8 to 3 or 4 schools?	45%	31%	24%
Would you be supportive of a plan that spent the same amount of money per student across elementary schools even if that meant some elementary schools would not get the same resources as others?	19%	42%	39%
Would you be supportive of a plan that moved all 5th graders into the elementary schools, even if it meant less extracurricular opportunities for those students?	59%	16%	25%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer PreK in all remaining elementary sites?	63%	18%	19%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer afterschool care in all remaining elementary sites?	68%	15%	18%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer more academic opportunities at the high school?	61%	21%	18%
Would you be supportive of one middle school instead of two?	49%	26%	24%
Research overwhelmingly supports a later start for secondary students and earlier start for elementary students. Would you be supportive of a plan to change school reporting times for secondary students?	80%	11%	9%
In order to spend the same amount of money per student across middle schools, would you support adjusting middle school attendance zones to create two middle schools of roughly equal size?	57%	30%	13%
ConVal has considered reconfiguration options multiple times over the past 20 years but thus far taken no action. Student enrollment is not projected to increase much in the next decade. In your opinion, should ConVal to take action on the reconfiguration question in 2024?	84%	11%	5%
If there is a school district configuration question on the March 2024 ballot, do you plan to vote?	95%	4%	1%

Temple Responses n = 38	Yes	Not Sure / Only If	No
Would you be supportive of a plan that reduced the number of elementary schools from 8 to 5 or 6 schools?	19%	24%	57%
Would you be supportive of a plan that reduced the number of elementary schools from 8 to 3 or 4 schools?	8%	19%	73%
Would you be supportive of a plan that spent the same amount of money per student across elementary schools even if that meant some elementary schools would not get the same resources as others?	11%	41%	49%
Would you be supportive of a plan that moved all 5th graders into the elementary schools, even if it meant less extracurricular opportunities for those students?	87%	8%	5%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer PreK in all remaining elementary sites?	19%	19%	62%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer afterschool care in all remaining elementary sites?	22%	14%	65%
Would you be more likely to support the closing of some elementary schools if it meant the district could offer more academic opportunities at the high school?	22%	5%	73%
Would you be supportive of one middle school instead of two?	51%	19%	30%
Research overwhelmingly supports a later start for secondary students and earlier start for elementary students. Would you be supportive of a plan to change school reporting times for secondary students?	74%	21%	5%
In order to spend the same amount of money per student across middle schools, would you support adjusting middle school attendance zones to create two middle schools of roughly equal size?	45%	34%	21%
ConVal has considered reconfiguration options multiple times over the past 20 years but thus far taken no action. Student enrollment is not projected to increase much in the next decade. In your opinion, should ConVal to take action on the reconfiguration question in 2024?	37%	16%	47%
If there is a school district configuration question on the March 2024 ballot, do you plan to vote?	97%	3%	0%