

Appendix C

Results

A total of 472 residents signed into a Town Meeting. Meeting participants were not required to sign in and Prismatic noted that some chose not to do so.

Town	# of Attendees
Antrim	41
Bennington	39
Dublin	87
Fracestown	54
Greenfield	40
Hancock	95
Peterborough	45
Sharon	16
Temple	55
	472

Town Meeting Input

Token Polling Results by Town

Option	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Fracestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple
“Keep ConVal just like it is now, even if it is more expensive than other options and likely means reduced options for middle school and high school students.”	#4	#4	#2	#1	#4	#3	#4	#4	#2
“Keep all the elementary schools, but move grades 5 and 6 back to them to help fill them up. This could save money, but would likely reduce academic and enrichment options for students in grades 5 and 6.”	#2	#3	#1	#2	#3	#1	#3	#3	#1
“Combine only some of the elementary schools in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save some money.”	#1	#1	#3	#3	#1	#2	#2	#1	#3
“Combine as many schools as possible (including perhaps the middle schools) in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save money.”	#3	#2	#4	#4	#2	#4	#1	#2	#4

Be a Board Member Results by Town

Option	Antrim	Bennington	Dublin	Francestown	Greenfield	Hancock	Peterborough	Sharon	Temple
“Retain our small-town elementary school.”	17	7	48	41	0	36	3	0	36
“Improve our town, such as purchasing a new fire truck, improving roads, etc.”	2	1	0	0	7	1	1	0	0
“Expand student academic options at the middle or high schools, such as starting a World Languages Program, enhancing advanced coursework options, etc.”	11	10	1	1	1	14	19	9	5
“Improve student options at the middle or high schools, such as adding more sports, expanding music/theater activities, etc.”	6	9	0	1	3	1	6	1	1
“Lower property taxes by not spending those funds.”	1	6	7	3	13	8	13	6	6

Antrim Town Meeting

Token Polling Results

Option	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
“Keep ConVal just like it is now, even if it is more expensive than other options and likely means reduced options for middle school and high school students.”	2	4	16	12
“Keep all the elementary schools, but move grades 5 and 6 back to them to help fill them up. This could save money, but would likely reduce academic and enrichment options for students in grades 5 and 6.”	4	13	7	8
“Combine only some of the elementary schools in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save some money.”	21	17	3	0
“Combine as many schools as possible (including perhaps the middle schools) in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save money.”	11	6	5	15

Token Polling Comments

- ◆ *Many of the advanced options originally at the new high school have been disbanned.*
- ◆ *Will happen again.*
- ◆ *Send 5th grade only back to small towns.*
- ◆ *Basics ok for K-5.*
- ◆ *6th grade gradual middle school.*
- ◆ *Young children should spend as little time on the bus as possible.*
- ◆ *Town identity.*
- ◆ *Remember that the gym at AES is the Antrim Town Gym, not a ConVal facility. The same goes for what you might be introduced to as the “GBS Field” – it is Antrim’s athletic field, not ConVal’s!*
- ◆ *If grades 5 and 6 stay in Hometown Elementary, what happens to grades 7 and 8?*
- ◆ *Combine grades for larger classes.*
- ◆ *Allow open enrollment within the district.*
- ◆ *Send just fifth to elementary. Possibly 8th to high. Close GBS.*
- ◆ *Ask for more creative/innovative ideas to reduce cost/improve facility by using technology better.*
- ◆ *Leave 2 middle schools as is. Combine smaller elementary schools. Consider opening early childhood centers (preK-2nd) & move 5th grade back to elementary school.*
- ◆ *If middle schools combine, what happens to the empty one? Who assumes upkeep?*
- ◆ *How about combining the smallest elementary schools with larger ones and keep having a middle school with 5-8?*
- ◆ *Decertify teachers’ union.*
- ◆ *Raise academic & behavior standards.*
- ◆ *Pay good, innovative teachers what they are worth.*

- ◆ *Combine all schools – regional approach to eliminate redundancies.*
- ◆ *If combine elem or mid schools – How will tax base be effected cost wise i.e., bossing*
- ◆ *Leave the ConVal district.*

Be a Board Member Results

Option	Votes
“Retain our small-town elementary school.”	17
“Improve our town, such as purchasing a new fire truck, improving roads, etc.”	2
“Expand student academic options at the middle or high schools, such as starting a World Languages Program, enhancing advanced coursework options, etc.”	11
“Improve student options at the middle or high schools, such as adding more sports, expanding music/theater activities, etc.”	6
“Lower property taxes by not spending those funds.”	1

Be a Board Member Comments

- ◆ *I’d use the funding to help the school/town build a new community center/gym/athletic field, so the school could own the gym/field and the town could have a new facility.*

Post-It Activities

“What does a great school have?”

- ◆ *Teachers who love their job and want to be there for the students, but are also supported by the community. Devoted and passionate teachers, paras and admin.*
- ◆ *Great teachers.*
- ◆ *Community involvement.*
- ◆ *Regulated behavioral plans that foster a safe environment for all students not only the elevated students.*
- ◆ *Support for educators.*
- ◆ *Diverse programs & clubs.*
- ◆ *Appropriate educator to student ratio.*
- ◆ *Adequate pay for staff to ensure the relation of qualified and diverse educators.*
- ◆ *Special education services that encompass and follow IEPs.*
- ◆ *Common expectations for behavior and fidelity among staff.*
- ◆ *Flexible curriculum that adapts to the needs of learners.*
- ◆ *Good facility. Involved parents. Caring teachers.*
- ◆ *Access to support to ensure success.*
- ◆ *Hands on teaching.*
- ◆ *Caring teachers who have a common goal to ensure that every child gets the attention they deserve.*
- ◆ *A great school enables students – teaching them how to learn rather than what to learn.*
- ◆ *Solid education. Teach children their ability is one to be made above capability. Keep teachers who are devoted to their students.*
- ◆ *Great staff.*
- ◆ *Committed parents. Inspired/inspiring teachers.*

- ◆ *A great school is conducive to student needs and understands those needs.*
- ◆ *Strong sense of community.*
- ◆ *Strong connection with the community.*
- ◆ *Great teachers and motivators give children incentives/reasons for learning. Today's children seem to lack motivation and expect too much.*
- ◆ *Parents who volunteer in the classrooms.*
- ◆ *Small classes. Little to no bullying or at least a program taught. Parent involvement with parents feeling they can be.*
- ◆ *A great teacher/student relationship. Compassion.*
- ◆ *Challenges kids that need to be challenged. Help kids that need it. Let kids be kids without pulling in political beliefs. Discipline kids where needed.*
- ◆ *A great school has great teachers that know how to teach and care about the students.*
- ◆ *Good educators – compensated without hands tied. Good administration that listens to parent struggles.*
- ◆ *Great teachers!*
- ◆ *Strong parent involvement.*
- ◆ *Adequate facilities. Teachers and paras, great library and librarians. Involved parents. Free lunch and breakfast.*
- ◆ *Adequate support staff.*
- ◆ *Dedicated teachers and involved parents.*
- ◆ *Funding!*
- ◆ *Highly skilled staff who love education, are supported by the local community and are paid well.*
- ◆ *A safe, supportive community of residents, parents, students, and staff.*
- ◆ *Learning opportunities for all students.*
- ◆ *Great students, great teachers, great parents, great town support, and great administration. All of equal value.*
- ◆ *Motivated staff.*
- ◆ *Great teachers that listen for community input.*
- ◆ *Pride.*
- ◆ *Community buy-in.*
- ◆ *Parent involvement. Student accountability. Great staff. Community involvement.*
- ◆ *Good teachers. Good curriculum. Learning the basics!!*
- ◆ *An engaged staff and community.*

“What is the best part about having a school located in this town?”

- ◆ *Becomes a community builder.*
- ◆ *Keeps property values up.*
- ◆ *Close proximity to your children and school activities.*
- ◆ *Community spirit & support of the local economy.*
- ◆ *The northern end of district identity.*
- ◆ *Close to your children.*
- ◆ *Local schools have a positive impact on town's character and community participation.*
- ◆ *Proximity to a local school can have a positive impact on academic performance. Studies show that student performance decline the farther they live from the school.*
- ◆ *Small town feel with smaller classes.*
- ◆ *Less travel time.*

- ◆ *Smaller classes allowing for more 1 on 1 learning for students.*
- ◆ *There is a socioeconomic disparity between Antrim and Peterborough. Antrims mena household income is 68k and Peterborough is 101k. Antrim students are already disadvantaged as such and adding more disadvantage with travel and parental participation is not good.*
- ◆ *Proximity to a school impacts parental involvement in a student’s education. Distance from a school can impact participation in activities such as sports/drama/etc.*
- ◆ *School in town advantage. Community involvement close to student, library, town hall, and community pride. Community support – Antrim has one of the highest (if not the highest) high school property taxes in ConVal, but has always voted for the budget.*
- ◆ *Less travel time for the youngest school children.*
- ◆ *Close community involvement.*
- ◆ *Attract new people to town. Bussing less of an issue. Sense of ownership of child’s education.*
- ◆ *On site community involvement.*
- ◆ *Parents are more involved. Less busing for small children. Smaller classes.*
- ◆ *Travel time. Size of school community. Place based education. Adult/student co-learning.*
- ◆ *As per charter when the district was started. Important to be schooled in hometown.*
- ◆ *Travel time reduced need for buses.*
- ◆ *Sense of community.*
- ◆ *Children make friends locally and visits or gathering are not miles away in different directions with multiple siblings.*
- ◆ *The elementary school is usually the 1st place where families make connection to the community. Not only children make friends, but so do the parents.*
- ◆ *Travel time for the youngest.*
- ◆ *Towns with schools tend to be happy communities that are centered and focused on the well being not only of the students but on the community as a whole.*
- ◆ *Smaller schools for the younger grade – an easier transition to school that feels familiar.*
- ◆ *Preserve our community by educating them in it.*
- ◆ *The student connection to the local community.*
- ◆ *Sense of community. Some kids can walk to school. Easier for parents to get to school.*
- ◆ *Students are on buses with others the same age.*
- ◆ *Short travel time for young children. Builds sense of community. Brings youth sports to town. Easier for families to attend school functions being close to the school.*
- ◆ *Community connection to school and our children.*

“What town service or facility is currently lacking in this town?”

- ◆ *Community center.*
- ◆ *Highway department/road agent.*
- ◆ *Snow removal on town sidewalks.*
- ◆ *Updated easier to access webpage.*
- ◆ *A space for evening or weekend town/organization meetings. Senior center.*
- ◆ *Community center.*
- ◆ *Waste water management especially runoff – road maintenance.*
- ◆ *Community center. Flexible town hall/service hours. Our Red department could flourish with more community support.*
- ◆ *Communication of what is available.*
- ◆ *Active senior citizen groups and more socialization.*

- ◆ *Senior/community center with gym.*
- ◆ *Senior community center with gym equipped with weight machines. Make space.*
- ◆ *Healthcare clinic/facility.*
- ◆ *Senior center.*
- ◆ *A town gym/sports field specifically for the town so the schools(s) can have their own facilities (and the town can too).*
- ◆ *Community center. More kid activities enrollment is low in sports. How do you encourage more people to participate.*
- ◆ *Nothing. Love the town the way it is.*
- ◆ *Nothing is lacking.*
- ◆ *Community center. Pharmacy.*
- ◆ *Senior center. But it's a great town!*
- ◆ *Community center (could be in the schools like Antrim Rec), including server center – great library, town center, family resource center, library nearby. Not all community events are well communicated.*
- ◆ *Community center.*
- ◆ *Public transportation.*
- ◆ *There is a lot more to add in facilities or services than a vacant building. There are maintenance and operational costs to consider. I think this question is disingenuous.*

Bennington/Pierce Town Meeting

Token Polling Results

Option	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
“Keep ConVal just like it is now, even if it is more expensive than other options and likely means reduced options for middle school and high school students.”	4	4	5	21
“Keep all the elementary schools, but move grades 5 and 6 back to them to help fill them up. This could save money, but would likely reduce academic and enrichment options for students in grades 5 and 6.”	11	7	14	5
“Combine only some of the elementary schools in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save some money.”	14	11	8	2
“Combine as many schools as possible (including perhaps the middle schools) in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save money.”	9	13	6	5

Token Polling Comments

- ◆ *It’s time to fix the school issue that has been discussed for YEARS now. Make some OBJECTIVE decisions.*
- ◆ *School is the heart and soul of the community and should be present in each town.*
- ◆ *As a teacher in one of the small schools, there isn’t any spare for 5th and 6th graders, we are full and struggle to find space for meetings.*
- ◆ *Don’t close any school without that town first being in agreement.*
- ◆ *Combine K-6 at elementary schools to fill them.*
- ◆ *Have one junior high school for all 7-9th graders in the district.*
- ◆ *Have one middle school building be a “tech school” supported by local businesses partially.*
- ◆ *High School for 10-12th grade.*
- ◆ *Will combining schools actually reduce taxes?*
- ◆ *Keep MS & HS separate.*
- ◆ *Move 5th to the elementary, combine some, and drop some town lines. Go by distance/proximity to school.*
- ◆ *It is unclear how this would likely reduce enrichment options.*

Be a Board Member Results

Option	Votes
“Retain our small-town elementary school.”	7
“Improve our town, such as purchasing a new fire truck, improving roads, etc.”	1
“Expand student academic options at the middle or high schools, such as starting a World Languages Program, enhancing advanced coursework options, etc.”	10
“Improve student options at the middle or high schools, such as adding more sports, expanding music/theater activities, etc.”	9
“Lower property taxes by not spending those funds.”	6

Be a Board Member Comments

- ◆ *Spend funds in early grades to teach ALL students to read. It may take paying other professionals or qualified teachers. Struggling students need to have a schedule to include 1:1 opportunities to read.*
- ◆ *Expand opportunities at Elementary and Middle School by consolidating resources. (PE, Art, Music, ETC.)*
- ◆ *Our elementary is the heart and soul of the Bennington Community.*
- ◆ *Half towards expanding student academic options at the Middle AND High School.*
- ◆ *More tech/agriculture “blue collar” job training. Get local businesses to invest their money or time in this.*
- ◆ *Can small towns share/pool these resources.*
- ◆ *Expand trade programs such as building, automotive, forestry, ETC.*
- ◆ *Put the one million towards trades and show kids that college is NOT their only option if they want to be successful.*
- ◆ *Get more local individuals involved to see where there are free services available or lower cost. For example, churches or nonprofits could help with social-emotional needs.*
- ◆ *Invest in more intervention opportunities for kids.*
- ◆ *Reduce spending by eliminating several administrative positions.*

Post-It Activities

“What does a great school have?”

- ◆ *Qualified, engaging teachers.*
- ◆ *Free lunch for all.*
- ◆ *After school activities.*
- ◆ *Better students. Better parents.*
- ◆ *A qualified and FULL staff.*
- ◆ *Students that excel academically, socially, and emotionally.*
- ◆ *Before & After school care, a well rounded curriculum, teachers who are qualified and trusted.*
- ◆ *Qualified staff, board members, and teachers.*
- ◆ *Teachers trained in class behavior.*
- ◆ *Principals with strong leadership*
- ◆ *Best academics for students.*
- ◆ *A qualified principal that cares about education*
- ◆ *Great teachers, involved parents, supportive staff, and fun activities.*
- ◆ *Local support.*
- ◆ *Communication between teachers and parents.*
- ◆ *Teachers who are allowed and encouraged to teach the truth.*
- ◆ *Community support*
- ◆ *A comprehensive library.*
- ◆ *A comfortable environment.*
- ◆ *Many academic & extracurricular offerings.*
- ◆ *Support services for students with emotional and academic needs.*
- ◆ *High quality instruction/instructors.*
- ◆ *Safe & updated buildings.*

- ◆ *Teacher/Student/Parent connection.*
- ◆ *Quality education and after school programs.*
- ◆ *Children and teachers feeling safe.*
- ◆ *Diversity.*
- ◆ *Programs for the inclusion of ALL students.*
- ◆ *After school & summer programs.*
- ◆ *Social emotional support programs.*
- ◆ *Teams of teachers that collaborate well together.*
- ◆ *Enrichment opportunities.*
- ◆ *A full time guidance counselor or two to address student’s needs.*
- ◆ *Proper heating, cooling, and access to food.*
- ◆ *Good role models.*
- ◆ *Supportive parents.*
- ◆ *Opportunities to explore more than just their local area.*
- ◆ *Balance between equipment, supplies, and opportunities.*
- ◆ *Quality teachers with certification & engagement.*
- ◆ *A sense of community.*
- ◆ *Well supported and well-funded programs.*
- ◆ *Caring teachers.*
- ◆ *A caring, involved, and knowledgeable community.*
- ◆ *School spirit. Fosters a love of learning.*
- ◆ *Paraprofessionals in all Kindergartens.*
- ◆ *Well paid teachers.*
- ◆ *Technical college courses.*
- ◆ *More contact with the school board at a town level.*
- ◆ *A sense of pride.*
- ◆ *Healthy teacher boundaries and reasonable workloads.*
- ◆ *More community support.*
- ◆ *Equal opportunity.*
- ◆ *Enough population to support extracurricular activities and sports.*
- ◆ *Diversity and a sizeable population.*
- ◆ *An effective student to teacher ratio.*
- ◆ *Core values.*
- ◆ *Push trade education has much as you push college.*

“What is the best part about having a school located in this town?”

- ◆ *It is a gathering place, and it can easily connect with other town departments/entities like the library, fire department, or historical society.*
- ◆ *Local playground.*
- ◆ *The elementary school is the heart of the community.*
- ◆ *It’s a center for building a sense of community (or it should be), it takes a town to raise a child.*
- ◆ *A central place for students and their families to attend programs.*
- ◆ *Community pride.*
- ◆ *Teacher/student ratio.*
- ◆ *Safer, better access between teacher/parent friendships.*

- ◆ *Community structure.*
- ◆ *There isn't.*
- ◆ *Home to school distance.*
- ◆ *Community center for town activities.*
- ◆ *Community pride.*
- ◆ *Close to home, staff who cares.*
- ◆ *School is the heart of the town and kids can walk to school.*
- ◆ *A nice community playground.*
- ◆ *70* students benefit from our elementary school.*
- ◆ *Easier to see the kids.*
- ◆ *The kids are closer to home and are safe.*
- ◆ *Hopefully a handicap accessible playground.*
- ◆ *Meeting new people in the town and community.*
- ◆ *Community building for the students.*
- ◆ *Community for kids to create lasting friendship close to home.*
- ◆ *Being able to use it for other things. (Voting and craft fairs)*
- ◆ *Brings local families together.*
- ◆ *Smaller schools and & classes give children more opportunity.*
- ◆ *I don't see any particular advantages to having an elementary school in town, other than having a shorter bus ride.*
- ◆ *A school in town gives a sense of community, pride, and family unity.*
- ◆ *Provides friendly attitudes.*
- ◆ *It is centrally located.*
- ◆ *Available for community events.*
- ◆ *Gives the children a sense of pride when they see their school in town.*
- ◆ *The school brings families and kids together.*
- ◆ *A local school is a necessity.*

“What town service or facility is currently lacking in this town?”

- ◆ *Recreation center, daycare community.*
- ◆ *Country store, before/after school program.*
- ◆ *Lack of adult programs.*
- ◆ *Lack of programs for multi-generational involvement.*
- ◆ *Recreational facilities.*
- ◆ *Senior services.*
- ◆ *More family community activities.*
- ◆ *Road maintenance.*
- ◆ *More community events.*
- ◆ *Convenient transfer station hours.*
- ◆ *Playground*
- ◆ *Childcare options.*
- ◆ *We are not lacking anything.*
- ◆ *Better road maintenance.*
- ◆ *Services for senior citizens.*
- ◆ *The library needs expansion.*

- ◆ *An actual community center.*
- ◆ *Handicap accessible playground.*
- ◆ *All sidewalks cleared during winter.*
- ◆ *Better department of public works.*
- ◆ *Clean water.*
- ◆ *Clean sidewalks in the winter*
- ◆ *Services for seniors.*

Dublin Town Meeting

Token Polling Results

Option	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
“Keep ConVal just like it is now, even if it is more expensive than other options and likely means reduced options for middle school and high school students.”	14	14	5	9
“Keep all the elementary schools, but move grades 5 and 6 back to them to help fill them up. This could save money, but would likely reduce academic and enrichment options for students in grades 5 and 6.”	41	25	18	18
“Combine only some of the elementary schools in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save some money.”	9	7	10	6
“Combine as many schools as possible (including perhaps the middle schools) in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save money.”	0	7	13	12

Token Polling Comments

- ◆ *Dissolve the district.*
- ◆ *These are forced choices which don't address at all the benefits of small town schools. How bogus.*
- ◆ *Dissolve the district and let the towns make the decisions.*
- ◆ *Combine no schools.*
- ◆ *Combine the middle schools.*
- ◆ *All 5th and 6th graders push back to elementary school, close Antrim Middle and consolidate to SMS and enrich programs. Money saved.*
- ◆ *Slanted options, the choices are represented in a really negative light.*
- ◆ *Descriptions with debatable conclusions are inappropriate and reflect unknown parties agenda.*
- ◆ *I would consider moving back 5th grade but NOT 6th grade.*
- ◆ *All these questions are incredibly loaded & biased to what the school board wants. For years surveys have been taken and the results have been worked to best suit what the school board and the superintendent wanted the outcome to be.*
- ◆ *These questions are way too biased and loaded. I don't understand how moving 5 and 6 back would harm them academically.*
- ◆ *Baited questions. (A note like this was left in every box)*
- ◆ *Move 5th grade back to elementary only. 5th grade doesn't have sport options at SMS anyways.*
- ◆ *Put 5th grade back to elementary school. If possible, keep 6th in middle school.*

Be a Board Member Results

Option	Votes
“Retain our small-town elementary school.”	48
“Improve our town, such as purchasing a new fire truck, improving roads, etc.”	0
“Expand student academic options at the middle or high schools, such as starting a World Languages Program, enhancing advanced coursework options, etc.”	1
“Improve student options at the middle or high schools, such as adding more sports, expanding music/theater activities, etc.”	0
“Lower property taxes by not spending those funds.”	7

Be a Board Member Comments

- ◆ *Lower property taxes*
- ◆ *Dissolve the district, let the towns make their own choice.*
- ◆ *Dissolve the district, the model has outlived its usefulness.*
- ◆ *Fund small schools.*
- ◆ *Retain small school.*
- ◆ *Keep the schools and lower taxes so more families can afford to live in Dublin.*
- ◆ *A few months ago there was talk that Dublin was not going to draw families because how can they afford a 4-acre lot? Not having an elementary school would have a much bigger negative impact than the 4-acre issue.*

Post-It Activities

“What does a great school have?”

- ◆ *A sense of belonging in a safe, stable learning environment.*
- ◆ *Good teachers that care.*
- ◆ *Age/grade level appropriate enrichment opportunities. (Music, art languages, sports, extracurricular activities.*
- ◆ *Caring teachers and a lower student to teacher ratio.*
- ◆ *We moved here with our children, a great to school to have, keep it or we are gone.*
- ◆ *Highly skilled teachers and admin that are compassionate and available.*
- ◆ *Community connections inside and outside of the school.*
- ◆ *Students that feel heard and loved.*
- ◆ *A great school has a community of neighbors that are always there to help with families. Kids in a smaller school have more benefits than a big, combined school. Students learn better when they are noticed every day. Not when they are left in an oversized classroom.*
- ◆ *Committed teaching staff.*
- ◆ *Strong connections between schools staff and families.*
- ◆ *DCS Is all of these things, DCS will always be my home.*
- ◆ *ART integrated into curriculum at elementary and middle schools.*
- ◆ *A short bus ride.*
- ◆ *Quality, caring and invested staff.*
- ◆ *Strong relationships with families and the community.*
- ◆ *DCS Cares.*

- ◆ *What DCS currently has.*
- ◆ *Small class size, engaged teachers, short commute.*
- ◆ *Exactly what DCS has.*
- ◆ *Amazing and attentive teachers.*
- ◆ *A Safe learning environment.*
- ◆ *A program for the children's benefit.*
- ◆ *What DCS has, do not take it away, add the 6th grade.*
- ◆ *Play based education.*
- ◆ *Nature/organic.*
- ◆ *Waldorf inspired.*
- ◆ *Invested teachers, all that is needed to meet student's needs, an involved community and extra curriculars.*
- ◆ *A great learning environment.*
- ◆ *Outdoor opportunities.*
- ◆ *Excellent teachers, supportive families, and a supportive community.*
- ◆ *A loving, curious and accepting community and mission.*
- ◆ *A community feeling.*
- ◆ *DCS has everything it takes to be a great school.*
- ◆ *Lower student to teacher ratio, higher test scores, caring and compassionate teachers and staff, a sense of community, and excellent communications and programs.*
- ◆ *Compassionate teachers, wonderful community with local events, excellent educational opportunities, and the ability to connect with families on a consistent basis.*
- ◆ *Great teachers.*
- ◆ *High SAT's*
- ◆ *Cohesive community.*
- ◆ *Excellent teachers, library and after school programs.*
- ◆ *Amazing staff, community feel, lower student to staff ratio.*
- ◆ *Lot's of opportunities to make friends.*
- ◆ *Nice teachers.*
- ◆ *At home in their own town.*
- ◆ *Teachers, accountability, deadlines.*
- ◆ *Great teachers and staff and a building that fosters a sense of community.*
- ◆ *The definition of a great school = DCS*
- ◆ *Do not shut down DCS!!*
- ◆ *Great teachers and supportive/involved parents.*
- ◆ *Great supported teachers. A sense of local community. A low staff to student ratio. DCS has it all.*
- ◆ *Everything that DCS has + all the other elementary schools in the district have.*
- ◆ *Great teachers, small admin, happy kids.*
- ◆ *Relationships with teachers and parents, kids feeling like they belong, DCS was home to my child.*
- ◆ *Over 75 kids per school.*
- ◆ *Small class size.*
- ◆ *DCS is wonderful!! Great community, strong connections, devoted teachers, and small class sizes.*
- ◆ *Critical reading skills.*
- ◆ *Community feeling safe, a feeling of family support.*
- ◆ *Strong relationships between family, teachers and staff.*
- ◆ *Great teachers, staff and admin.*

- ◆ *Great parents, community involvement, and investment of the town.*
- ◆ *OUR school has everything it needs to be great!! DCS is a fabulous school. Can somebody use some imagination to keep the school and add the things they need. I have lots of ideas!*
- ◆ *DCS is amazing, my home, and a community.*
- ◆ *If there really is too much space, which I doubt, can we set up an elder care facility at one end. Something we need and it provides the opportunity to mix generations.*
- ◆ *Good teachers, small class sizes, support staff, and a sense of community.*
- ◆ *Happy children, invested teachers, and involved parents.*
- ◆ *Funding trust for teachers and the school board.*
- ◆ *Enthusiastic teachers (Let's pay them well!)*
- ◆ *A connection to it's community – investment from the townspeople.*
- ◆ *High test scores.*
- ◆ *Great teachers with small classes so they can teach.*
- ◆ *Small class size and community.*
- ◆ *The teachers are encouraging amazing education and DCS feels like home.*
- ◆ *Start at 8:30!!*
- ◆ *Small class sizes, a town's support, students, and teachers who love being present.*
- ◆ *There is a constant positive message, education for all students, opportunity for students to grow in self-esteem/self-confidence, and a chance to be known for your strengths.*
- ◆ *DCS is full of courage.*
- ◆ *Develops a sense of community.*

“What is the best part about having a school located in this town?”

- ◆ *Relationships with teachers, everyone knows each child and they all feel seen.*
- ◆ *Children represent the future.*
- ◆ *It's the heart of the town's community. Our children who are grown now made lifelong friendships. It continues to attract young families & helps to grow the economy. It is used for many town functions that keep the town of Dublin connected.*
- ◆ *My kinder-5th grader will not have to spend 1 and a half hours per day on a bus. Save that for middle and high school students.*
- ◆ *Local friends, close community, and it feels like an extended family.*
- ◆ *The kids grow with and know the community. We moved here because of the close school.*
- ◆ *Close to home.*
- ◆ *Community is key. Also a shorter community distance.*
- ◆ *Being part of our town-friends connection.*
- ◆ *We moved to Dublin so our kids could enter kindergarten in a school in our town which provides a sense of community that is close to home.*
- ◆ *The feeling of local community.*
- ◆ *A sense of community.*
- ◆ *Community values and social capital.*
- ◆ *I moved from a large city to here for my family and the local elementary school. To close DCS would be a huge disappointment and a hit to the town.*
- ◆ *Easy to get to, short bus ride, and living near friends.*
- ◆ *We do not have to drive far.*
- ◆ *We moved to Dublin to get away from an overcrowded school. The community in Dublin is amazing.*

- ◆ *New families move here. Small classes.*
- ◆ *The town culture and investment in DCS kids.*
- ◆ *Kids know and confirm friends.*
- ◆ *Parents have close contact with teachers, which is important in elementary years.*
- ◆ *Keeps the town vibrant with families wanting to move here. Ease for parents and distance to school. Parents are able to be involved in school easily.*
- ◆ *Small class size and a sense of community. A shorter bus ride. It's all part of the reason we moved here.*
- ◆ *Attract families with children. No long busing for young children.*
- ◆ *Kids should not spend too long on a bus ride to get to school.*
- ◆ *A sense of connection and community.*
- ◆ *The closer the teachers are to the parents, the more effective the children's education.*
- ◆ *Builds community. Having a personal relationship with every staff member.*
- ◆ *Sense of community.*
- ◆ *Kids in town are good.*
- ◆ *Kids feel known. Little to no commute which steals time from the family afterschool time. Connection between grades, kids know everyone.*
- ◆ *A small student to teacher ratio.*
- ◆ *All staff know my child and my child's needs. Support for my child in school.*
- ◆ *Great teachers.*
- ◆ *Community activities, small class sizes, personal attention for each student and less travel for students.*
- ◆ *Close to home with a sense of community. Property values will not drop.*
- ◆ *Convenience, small town feel/appeal, adds value to the community.*
- ◆ *Community gathering place.*
- ◆ *Rural character/small class size.*
- ◆ *Community and better proven education environments than other towns.*
- ◆ *We are a family, we all have connections to each other.*
- ◆ *Short bus rides.*
- ◆ *Having local control.*
- ◆ *Makes it possible/easier for both parents to work.*
- ◆ *Children who are in school in their own towns are less stressed, which leads to a better learning environment. Smaller class sizes are better.*
- ◆ *Small class size and a short commute.*
- ◆ *Everything!! It's a huge thing for the community to have an elementary school central to the town.*
- ◆ *Strong knowledge of who is in town.*
- ◆ *It helps to set the stage for a tight knit community.*
- ◆ *Sense of community.*
- ◆ *Close community.*
- ◆ *Community.*
- ◆ *Students are "known" and helped to grow. No one is overworked. A strong sense of belonging and self-worth are developed here.*

“What town service or facility is currently lacking in this town?”

- ◆ *Community garden.*
- ◆ *Ambulance.*
- ◆ *Nothing*
- ◆ *Childcare.*
- ◆ *More multi-family housing.*
- ◆ *A community garden.*
- ◆ *Nothing is lacking. Close the community schools and you are signing an economic death sentence to the Monadnock region.*
- ◆ *Nothing.*
- ◆ *Community garden.*
- ◆ *Lake access!! Recreation for youth and more youth friendly library services.*
- ◆ *Better parking at town boat launch.*
- ◆ *Pumpelly trail, parking lot.*
- ◆ *Assisted living/retirement housing so long time residents can stay in town. Pickleball courts.*
- ◆ *Recreation for all. (Hiking, Sports, Biking and Youth Activities.*
- ◆ *Ambulance, EMT, social worker, and a librarian.*
- ◆ *Before and after care. District preschool. Community events. Retail and restaurants.*
- ◆ *After school programs.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing.*
- ◆ *Missing middle.*
- ◆ *Preschool*
- ◆ *Adult day care – it should be here.*
- ◆ *Housing – a group is working on it, and it will allow young families with kids to live here.*
- ◆ *Community – What we have is great and it is growing.*
- ◆ *Improved public access to the lake.*
- ◆ *District preschool.*
- ◆ *Maintenance. Streetlights on main street are broken.*
- ◆ *A secure school, prismatic should not be roaming schools unchecked during the day.*
- ◆ *Nothing except the “middle missing” housing.*
- ◆ *Youth programs. Recreation department or others. General lack of able bodied volunteers.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing.*
- ◆ *More programs for children.*
- ◆ *Housing and infrastructure to support it.*
- ◆ *More community events and gatherings. Family and adult.*
- ◆ *Recreation for youth.*
- ◆ *Outdoor skate park and bike park. We have everything else, in my opinion.*
- ◆ *Community events, volunteers, paid rec for youth.*
- ◆ *Public preschool.*
- ◆ *Public access to the lake, that is not a boat ramp.*
- ◆ *Housing for young families.*
- ◆ *We are new to town and our family has really loved our experience in Dublin. It is exactly what we wanted.*
- ◆ *We have everything we need.*

Francestown Town Meeting

Token Polling Results

Option	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
“Keep ConVal just like it is now, even if it is more expensive than other options and likely means reduced options for middle school and high school students.”	13	0	2	2
“Keep all the elementary schools, but move grades 5 and 6 back to them to help fill them up. This could save money, but would likely reduce academic and enrichment options for students in grades 5 and 6.”	19	6	4	2
“Combine only some of the elementary schools in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save some money.”	3	3	16	5
“Combine as many schools as possible (including perhaps the middle schools) in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save money.”	3	1	0	17

Token Polling Comments

- ◆ *Keep schools in the towns.*
- ◆ *This polling is problematic. Saving money and increased academic options are not the only options. Increase state funding.*
- ◆ *What is it exactly that the middle school + high school want that they don't already have?*
- ◆ *Questions are poorly worded. Each makes assumptions that aren't necessarily accurate – ie if we combine schools it will lead to more enrichment. If we don't, middle + high schools will suffer.*
- ◆ *Lower SAU costs – Superintendent. Look at lowering costs in the budget – without closing schools as an option. Stop spending money/time on evaluations about closing schools.*
- ◆ *I disagree with the 'even if it means reduced services for middle and high school' part of this 'option.' You are implying that keeping all the elementary schools means lowering standards or services at middle and high schools. Which is not the case. Keep configuration as it is with all the services we currently have at all schools PLUS pre-K in small town schools.*
- ◆ *Likely means reduced options for middle school needs to be explained. If this is on the table then it should have items listed that would be reduced. Creating Fear is not the best way to get answers From the community!!*
- ◆ *Let's come up with some better options. Open the school to local homeschool students for extra-curricular classes (i.e. art, phys ed, music, etc) to increase enrollment/funding w/o harming the learning experience for the kids.*
- ◆ *As a parent, to be asked to vote on options possibly reducing options for our children, is just terrible. I don't like any of these options at all.*
- ◆ *Keep district configuration as it is. Retaining the same level of services.*
- ◆ *Keeping ConVal just like it is would be less expensive if we looked @ decreasing administrative salaries + dpts (?).*
- ◆ *Keep ConVal just like it is. Existing options for middle school + high school are great.*

- ◆ *This whole process has negative language towards the small schools. The status quo is not negative. Why do you have to lose services if we continue to vote for the budget? The wording seems purposefully negative to the elementary schools.*
- ◆ *Provide data and expertise to inform scenarios.*
- ◆ *Superintendent – spend more time focused NOW supporting teachers/staff in a positive way. Support BOD involvement in schools.*
- ◆ *Keep the schools in the towns.*
- ◆ *By combining middle schools the cost would be too great because would need to build a new larger middle school unless all went to GBS.*
- ◆ *Keep elementary schools – up to grade 6. Combine middle schools at SMS.*
- ◆ *Has homeschool involvement or recruitment been looked at??*
- ◆ *There (are?) (may be) creative ways to address the “but...”*
- ◆ *Decrease administrative costs. Use professional governance model.*
- ◆ *Or make K-8 schools. Move 5th grade to elementary school. Combine middle schools. If a town is too small to sustain its elementary school let them decide how to handle – max class size of 20 kids. Offer more district resources.*
- ◆ *For FES: combine the grades – kids/parents loved it. They all thrived. See how much room is left, lease space for day care/elder care. What will the cost of transporting wee ones be in your “cost-cutting” measures?*
- ◆ *Keep all the elementary schools open but reduce the costs of operation by combining grades, not requiring multiple administrators; allowing empty rooms to be sub-let for a day care or senior care. Other – OUTSIDE the box thinking.*
- ◆ *Closing FES and bussing kids in Frankestown would not be beneficial to their day-to-day health. They would need to be up earlier and lose time in the afternoons with family and their extracurriculars + homework.*
- ◆ *The options provided are misleading and guided ([something] someone’s point of view). You have made it clear that a public point of view is not wanted.*
- ◆ *Maintain small schools. [illegible]. Develop volunteer corps – retired teachers; professional experts; classroom assistants – including upper grade students.*

Be a Board Member Results

Option	Votes
“Retain our small-town elementary school.”	41
“Improve our town, such as purchasing a new fire truck, improving roads, etc.”	0
“Expand student academic options at the middle or high schools, such as starting a World Languages Program, enhancing advanced coursework options, etc.”	1
“Improve student options at the middle or high schools, such as adding more sports, expanding music/theater activities, etc.”	1
“Lower property taxes by not spending those funds.”	3

Be a Board Member Comments

- ◆ *Our town’s future is the kids. Giving the kids a school experience where they feel a sense of belonging (instead of being just a face in a crowd) is essential to their success. FES is a diamond in the rough and the reason we moved to this town 4 years ago.*
- ◆ *Our small town elementary school is the core of this small town.*

- ◆ *Preschool elementary world languages needed to be offered here if want everyone to be fluent in language other than English. We do our students a disservice not making everyone bilingual.*
- ◆ *FES is an asset and attractive to families who may want to live in Frankestown.*
- ◆ *Survey from 4/15/2012. The elementary schools were all designed using same plan and size based on economies of scale for lost savings. It was never intended they would be filled.*
- ◆ *This is awful selection of choices! Heartbreaking – why all funds to one selection? Truly disappointed its all come down this.*
- ◆ *Retaining local elementary school does not necessarily conflict with other state objectives. Creating a strong local school builds community, drives property values (tax revenue), and strengthens the middle and high schools.*
- ◆ *There are reasons why there has been an elementary school in the small towns in the ConVal district for hundreds of years. Wondering why it is different now that funding for these entities should change?*
- ◆ *We need an excellent elementary school to encourage young families to move here. It will be an assest for all future generations.*
- ◆ *Let’s get creative and think outside the box – these choices are simplistic and not mutually exclusive.*
- ◆ *These choices are not mutually exclusive.*
- ◆ *Lower property taxes by abolishing teachers unions and the incessant demands of more funding to teachers pockets at the expense of good learning for the children and at the expense of the family unit (unless you happen to be a teacher)*

Post-It Activities

“What does a great school have?”

- ◆ *Kids who are given the tools to learn and the teachers and staff who will support them with where they are at academically. An environment that fosters creativity, independent thinking and compassion.*
- ◆ *Community. Educators willing to spend time with our kids to give them a good education. Safe place for our kids to go.*
- ◆ *Enthusiastic teachers/staff who are fairly compensated and like their jobs. Enrichment activities like art, music, science, outdoor education, etc. Happy students who have fun learning.*
- ◆ *Small classes. Family involvement. Nature based activities. Quality teachers. Easy commute.*
- ◆ *A connection to the community. Consistent dedicated staff. Involved families and community. An environment that is open to “all.” Everyone feels welcome.*
- ◆ *Support of the community. Safe places for kids to learn. Diverse teachers who connect w/ students. Parental support of teachers + curriculum.*
- ◆ *Strong leadership. Good (diversified), committed teachers. Strong community support/involvement. Resources for teacher development. Positive mindset.*
- ◆ *Great/leadership that respects their staff. Returning staff members that are paid adequately. Town support <-> school support. Open-ness to best practices.*
- ◆ *People that care about their learning. People that care that their learning is well rounded.*
- ◆ *Great teachers. Great PTO.*
- ◆ *Dedicated + passionate teachers. Variety of enrichment programs. Connection w/ students.*

- ◆ *A community in which it is rooted. Students, educators, parents, and administrators all working in support of each other. An institutional sense of purpose. Ways in which to nurture mind, body, and heart.*
- ◆ *A great school has enthusiastic and fully-engaged teachers. Happy children excited to be in school. Involved parents/families. Community involvement.*
- ◆ *Excellent faculty. Opportunities for extra-curriculum enrichment programs. Practical/useful courses to prepare for next level of education. Excellent technology and infrastructure. Excellent security.*
- ◆ *Staff that knows + cares about the families in the school. History of students in its town “When I was a kid @ FES”. Happy kids + staff. Safe environment. Staff that can recognize when students are struggling and may need extra help (IEP’s).*
- ◆ *Small class sizes.*
- ◆ *Teachers who like what they do + want to teach. Families + a community that is supportive. Resources + funding that support all children as they need.*
- ◆ *Local access. Community involvement. Access to local town history, buildings, people. Great teachers.*
- ◆ *Engaged staff and teachers. A strong sense of community pride in the school. Strong communication between all parties – parents, teachers, staff, students. An eagerness and energy to learn by all!*
- ◆ *Great caring teachers. A sense of a supportive safe space. Great caring staff. Volunteers. Connections to the community. Great outreach. Great curriculum creatively & enthusiastically taught. Small classes.*
- ◆ *Community. Staff that wants to stay & is enthusiastic. No fear of closing.*
- ◆ *Engagement with the local community.*
- ◆ *Dedicated teachers. Supportive parents. Enough funding to cover expenses for special needs kids and students with IEPs. Energetic principles and admin.*
- ◆ *Teachers with jobs security (not FES). Happy teachers. Happy kids. Volunteers. Education that challenges students. Outdoor learning.*
- ◆ *A great school has opportunities for many kinds of learning and attention to every learner.*
- ◆ *Quality education. Quality staff. Support for all children, including individual needs.*
- ◆ *Excellent teachers. A supportive community. Flexible programming with sound standards. Respect for learning. Respect for students and teachers.*
- ◆ *Great teachers/staff. Great curriculum that doesn’t include wokeness. Community involvement. Unity. Good communication. Love for student (all). Love for teaching.*
- ◆ *Strong connection to the community and families of students.*
- ◆ *Dedicated, passionate, well-prepared teachers + leadership. Supportive families.*
- ◆ *IT HAS HEART. Great teachers + principal (+ [administrative assistant]!). Outdoor programs. Beautiful gardens. WINDOWS. ART. HIKING. MUSIC. COOKING. READING. WRITING. MATH. SCIENCE.*
- ◆ *Has [administrative assistant] at the helm. Harris Center shows the children their backyard right here. The web of students, teachers, administration, extended community working together.*
- ◆ *Small class sizes. A teacher that can teach the needs of each and every student – emotional & academic. Differentiated instruction. Access to outside spaces beyond recess. Freedom to teach via project based learning/place based learning. Community involvement.*
- ◆ *Good faculty. Supportive families. Engaged students. Community support.*
- ◆ *Safe environment. Facilities. Good staff. Leadership that embodies the values of the org + advocates for them. Convenient location. Connection w/ community.*

- ◆ *Quality educators. Involved parents + community.*
- ◆ *Great teachers + staff like ours. Things to learn that are fun + things that are important + exciting to dig into + learn. Very important to get a good sense of yourself + have confidence in a group, being encouraged to try new things and leave negativity behind.*
- ◆ *Resources to support ALL students.*
- ◆ *Parental involvement*
- ◆ *Kids that are loved by their parents and neighbors. A curriculum that teaches reading, writing, typing, some art, some singing, some [illegible] AND leaves out dogma of what ever is popular that year.*
- ◆ *Do not shut it down.*
- ◆ *Well trained staff. Involved parents. Strong leadership. Bright, clean facilities. Caring staff.*
- ◆ *Long term teachers who have seen generations of Frankestown youth. Excellent academics.*
- ◆ *Good staff + facilities.*
- ◆ *Expowered staff. Front line decision making. All staff as leaders.*
- ◆ *Great teachers + principal. A clear + inspiring mission. Sufficient funding. A community that supports all students + their families.*
- ◆ *Sense of community. Leadership. Focus on the real life situations. Feeling of home.*
- ◆ *Teachers & staff that know their jobs are safe. Enough support from district to teach at their best. Great consistent leadership. FES has had 3 principals in 5 year! Support of supertendent.*
- ◆ *Opportunity to learn new things at students own pace. Be challenged. Groups w/ grades – school spirit.*

“What is the best part about having a school located in this town?”

- ◆ *The kids at FES have an amazing advantage as they really feel a sense of belonging here. You don't get that feeling at big schools! It is called “the best little school in New Hampshire” for a reason...and draws young parents (like me) to this town.*
- ◆ *Proximity for young students. Community.*
- ◆ *Proximity to home. School bus ride times. Ability to get to know the educators & staff. Volunteering. Local town pride.*
- ◆ *Hope you will get to ask parents of GBS students who attended open house tonight for their input too.*
- ◆ *Ability to visit & volunteer at the school with a busy work schedule.*
- ◆ *A sense of community! Young families and people bringing life and enrichment to our town! Young families bringing their own skill sets to benefit other elements of the town. Volunteering on boards, taking part in events, etc. Young children have friends in their own town – opportunity for social/emotional development for children in the community. Less transportation time for young children. Look at the FES test scores!*
- ◆ *FES as part of the fabric of our town – for example at the annual holiday fair*
- ◆ *Community involvement. Shorter bus rides. Smaller class sizes = better learning environment. Easier for parents to volunteer.*
- ◆ *Children are close to home. The community feels the school is part of the community. Children have town friends. Education is local. There is greater community ownership.*
- ◆ *The children (5) are close to their home in case of illness or needing to be picked up. Events at our school are wonderful with neighbors from FES. Does not seem cost efficient or beneficial to the kids @ FES. Convenience. My kids LOVE this school and teachers.*
- ◆ *A small town without an elementary school will NOT be attractive to young families.*

- ◆ *Access to local history. Access to the community. Community access to the school for activities + events. Frankestown children learning in the town in which they live.*
- ◆ *I like having FES in our town because I like school and love our teachers and school staff. – from a third grade FES student*
- ◆ *It's part of the Frankestown family. We have lost so many other things like church, MASONS, grange, women guild*
- ◆ *Close to home. Makes it easier (mentally) to drop kids off and know they are close by when they are young. Makes it easier to help and volunteer at the school.*
- ◆ *Greater community relationship & responsibility for education. Attracts younger families. Source of community identity.*
- ◆ *Keeps our elementary children part of our community. Helpful to new families – welcoming. A wonderful way to begin your education – close to home.*
- ◆ *Community involvement. Local control. No bussing. School-town connections. Personal relationships with staff.*
- ◆ *Local kids need schools closer to their homes. It adds extra stresses on kids and parents when they are forced to travel for education.*
- ◆ *Small classroom sizes. One on one resources for kids. Individualized lessons when needed. Kids are not lost in the mix*
- ◆ *Clser to home*
- ◆ *Frankestown Elementary School is a foundational part of our community. It provides our young people a chance to connect with each other and their local community. It's also a place for parents and other community members to connect with each other. The small town, small school atmosphere works so well here.*
- ◆ *Keeps kids local. Improves property value. Encourages familys to mover here/stay here. Community pride.*
- ◆ *Connecting with other local parents in town.*
- ◆ *It help build community for all concerned. It helps generate pride and success for students and community. Think of this gem in our town compared to PS 47 on Eastside NY city. Where would you rather send your child. Smaller classes where children benefit for more attention is best. Invest in education is investing in America.*
- ◆ *Contributes to a strong sense of community. Collaboration between town organizations and school classes. Gives students a strong supportive sense of community. Students make friends with their local peers (In Frankestown we don't have neighborhoods). Elementary school is the neighborhood.*
- ◆ *Small schools allow the teachers to work at the kids level. Unite the community. It feels safe. Outdoor learning.*
- ◆ *The school draws community together. It contributed to a safe, stable comm. + builds our future.*
- ◆ *Shorter schools days – not on a bus for too long. Brings the community together. Brings families to town.*
- ◆ *Why have a school in town? The children learn to become invested in their community. It is good for all the adults in town to know who + what is going on in their elementary school. It is safer for the children, less worry for the adults. It is right.*
- ◆ *Builds community and roots [drawing of a tree]*
- ◆ *Helps and is the heartbeat of the community! Sense of comfort for our children, nevermind convenience.*
- ◆ *Definite plus for property values, people with families more inclined to buy homes in towns with schools. It is better for the children to attend a small school when they are young.*

- ◆ *Be able to grow up in a small town and appreciate the people around them. Smaller class rooms.*
- ◆ *A lot of parental and community involvement in the school. Young children not bused great time/distance. Small school, small class size, good for children. The school is actually a part of the community fabric of the town.*
- ◆ *A town with a school is more attractive for families that are looking to relocate. This was true for us. We would not have moved to Frankestown if the town didn't have a school.*
- ◆ *It promotes the future of this town. With an aging + dwindling population this town and district needs double down on our children's education. Local schools keep our kids in a safe learning environment without these schools this area will suffer.*
- ◆ *It creates a common space for students and parents of a multiplicity of backgrounds to have something in common; it's a shared place of experience. The students in the school are "ours" (in the best way possible). It makes education with a 'place-based' orientation possible (e.g., our local Memorial Day observance had kids learn about the contributions and sacrifices by people in their town); rooting education in place makes it more meaningful. It is a locus of the community. It is attractive to potential homebuyers.*
- ◆ *Convenience. Shorter bus commute. Hometown pride. Smaller classrooms.*
- ◆ *Community*
- ◆ *It puts children/the next generation at the heart of the community. It draws + supports young people. A town has to have a school – without a school it's just a collection of properties.*
- ◆ *It's a center of community. Convenience for students + their families. It's a excellent school, so why travel to one that's NOT as good*
- ◆ *Our children are connected to their town. Their involvement is local. Transportation is reasonable. The townsfolk support their education. We CAN think outside the box-thinking and make it happen.*
- ◆ *Tradition and identity. We live here, this is where we are schooled!*
- ◆ *Convenience for parents + children. Attractive to possible new residents.*
- ◆ *Welcomes new families. Keeps property values steady. Builds community.*
- ◆ *Creates community among children + families. No long bus rides. Can walk to school. Sense of town for all.*
- ◆ *Builds community. Kindergarden could be close, no bussing. Better property tax value for real estate. Attract young families to town.*
- ◆ *Towns like ours in Frankestown thrive on the families who are raising kids. We see families moving in buying homes. It's so important to have a school here. Our school kids are scoring high here + doing lots of outdoor adventures, learning why our town is unique. Don't send out of town – it makes no sense. I don't think it's a cost issue or a tax issue. Lose a school + then buy too many buses to transport and then long bus rides + our kids + parents like that they are in a school in their home town.*
- ◆ *Reason for young families to move and stay here.*
- ◆ *It creates a sense of place for children to grow and learn in.*
- ◆ *Helpful to property values. Encourages families w/ young children to move here. Children might gain time w/ family vs. bus. More convenient for parents. Might be safer for children.*
- ◆ *Safety, convenience, response times, local community*
- ◆ *Community unity, involvement, spirit. Children don't have such a long bus ride to school. The school attracts young families. You get to know more people in town. Property values would decrease w/o school. Taxes won't go down you bus the kids.*

“What town service or facility is currently lacking in this town?”

- ◆ *Child care/elder care options.*
- ◆ *We need to have dances @ the town every Saturday or Friday night. Recreation dept could make a dance committee.*
- ◆ *Care services for the elderly.*
- ◆ *After school child care or a central location for sports training or music lessons. Keep children of working parents supervised in a learning environment.*
- ◆ *After-school care and recreation options for the kids (similar to Antrim rec dept options)*
- ◆ *A gathering place – as the town articulated in its strategic planning + we hoped for in its village store/café – but it is not.*
- ◆ *Community center. Before after school. Pre-k*
- ◆ *After school programs grades 5 & 6.*
- ◆ *Nursery school. After/before school care. Adult day care. Sidewalk from town to school.*
- ◆ *Grades 5 + 6*
- ◆ *Grade 5 + 6*
- ◆ *A community hub. A fully functioning recycling center.*
- ◆ *Child care*
- ◆ *Childcare*
- ◆ *Child care*
- ◆ *Nursery school. Indoor pickle-ball. Being Mortal model for elderly. Compassion for homeschooler inclusion.*
- ◆ *Daycare – infant, toddler, preK*
- ◆ *Child care/after school care*
- ◆ *5th grade. Pre-K program. Before/after school program. Rec program (if children + families are really interested) – school district elementary rec program may be a good plan.*
- ◆ *Grades 5 + 6. Preschool + First Friends program. Access to childcare. Sports options. Community services for elder care.*
- ◆ *Elder care*
- ◆ *The school needs more state funding.*
- ◆ *Field maintenance. Baseball. Soccer.*
- ◆ *Pre-K*
- ◆ *Child care. Elder activities.*
- ◆ *Pre-K. Volunteer corps/focused on education; the elderly; community engagement. Entrepreneurial development center (for adults + teens).*
- ◆ *Grades 5 + 6*
- ◆ *Community daycare. After/before school care.*
- ◆ *In regards to using a building, I can't think of anything. Seniors + those who get an injury that prevents driving, a service for that is important. Remodeling a building that should be a school is costly.*
- ◆ *Meeting spaces. Child care – before + after school care.*
- ◆ *A community ctr with a working kitchen.*
- ◆ *Grades 5 + 6*
- ◆ *Safe biking + walking to school*
- ◆ *Rec dept that involves the whole community. Before/after school programs. Bring 5th grade back.*

- ◆ *There is NO “facility” lacking. One doesn’t choose to live here if one wished easy walking access to barrooms, theaters, other night life activities or expensive tax-payer “places.” Fun is cheap when friends are aplenty.*
- ◆ *Add pre-K to FES*
- ◆ *Early education*
- ◆ *Grades 5 & 6 here & expand high school to 6 ys w/ an associates degree.*
- ◆ *Pre-K at FES*
- ◆ *Senior center. Day care for working parents’ convenience. Youth center. Nature center.*
- ◆ *Lights on the soccer field at FES.*

Greenfield Town Meeting

Token Polling Results

Option	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
“Keep ConVal just like it is now, even if it is more expensive than other options and likely means reduced options for middle school and high school students.”	2	9	17	19
“Keep all the elementary schools, but move grades 5 and 6 back to them to help fill them up. This could save money, but would likely reduce academic and enrichment options for students in grades 5 and 6.”	8	12	12	14
“Combine only some of the elementary schools in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save some money.”	21	14	10	3
“Combine as many schools as possible (including perhaps the middle schools) in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save money.”	16	13	3	8

Token Polling Comments

- ◆ *Verbage is implying that students are missing out as they are now.*
- ◆ *Could this be done for only 5th grade. MS attitude of 5th grade is extended to elementary anyway.*
- ◆ *Mount Vernon (where I went to school) had elementary up to 6th grade.*
- ◆ *Put the 5th/6th back into the elementary would allow a more supportive environment. Having kids in a combined school puts young children in too big of an environment for them emotionally. Bullying is already an issue for our children.*
- ◆ *Move 5th grade back to the 11 schools. Open preschool in all 11 schools.*
- ◆ *Why “perhaps middle schools”? Skewed questions. The Antrim middle school should be first on the list for closure.*
- ◆ *I don’t think it would be smart to have so many kids in one class coming from the south where the class sizes are big. Kids aren’t going to get the academic help they need. Small class sizes are best.*
- ◆ *Focus on messaging to the public as to the value of public education. Dispell the misinformation about public school education and bring people back to the schools. This is the problem that needs solving.*
- ◆ *I think that combining some of the elementary schools is good, but young students need to identify with their towns, so this would need to be worked out.*
- ◆ *Offer numbers of current schools to look at how cohort.*
- ◆ *Consider moving just 5 back to the elementary schools.*
- ◆ *Reduce taxes anyway possible. Give elderly tax credit!*
- ◆ *I believe if you combine a few elementary schools is would make great elderly housing. 1 floor living, big common rooms, sprinkled buildings, and plent of parking. Classrooms could be 2 bedroom units.*

- ◆ *Combining elementary schools on bringing 5 and 6 back to the town with elementary school. It will be beneficial in saving \$\$.*
- ◆ *Better recruitment and retention to help enrollment. Too much misinformation about public schools and as a result losing enrollment to homeschool and “classical education” charter school.*

Be a Board Member Results

Option	Votes
“Retain our small-town elementary school.”	0
“Improve our town, such as purchasing a new fire truck, improving roads, etc.”	7
“Expand student academic options at the middle or high schools, such as starting a World Languages Program, enhancing advanced coursework options, etc.”	1
“Improve student options at the middle or high schools, such as adding more sports, expanding music/theater activities, etc.”	3
“Lower property taxes by not spending those funds.”	13

Be a Board Member Comments

- ◆ N/A

Post-It Activities

“What does a great school have?”

- ◆ *Teachers who are paid well and motivated. Small class sizes. Kids not “slipping through the cracks.” Before and after care for working parents.*
- ◆ *Happy teachers.*
- ◆ *Happy teachers.*
- ◆ *Happy teachers. Support staff and counselors for students. After school programs. Open communication between staff and parents.*
- ◆ *A safe learning environment. Quality instructors that develop and deliver engaging lessons. Focus on student achievement and student needs.*
- ◆ *Good teachers. Challenging curriculum.*
- ◆ *Great teachers and leaders. Great playground. It’s clean.*
- ◆ *Music, art, outdoor opportunities and field trips, good lunch/food options, small class size, sports, and aftercare.*
- ◆ *Engaging classes. Robust curriculum.*
- ◆ *Community support. Great teachers who feel supported.*
- ◆ *Ability for all children to learn.*
- ◆ *Animals – kids can pet and raise.*
- ◆ *Connection to the community. Relationship with families. Classes that are not too large for 1 teacher. Parents that support. Extra help for struggling kids.*
- ◆ *Opportunities for students (more than 1 class of each grade). Great teachers.*
- ◆ *Good/happy teachers. Happy students that are well adjusted. Satisfied parents.*
- ◆ *Small class sizes. IEP support.*

- ◆ *Good teachers. Well organized administration. Adequate, smart, strategic funding. Emphasis on education.*
- ◆ *Great teachers and leaders.*
- ◆ *Resources. Things for kids to do like sports, etc.*

“What is the best part about having a school located in this town?”

- ◆ *Personal experience has been excellent. Small numbers, increased [illegible], community events.*
- ◆ *Really close relationships with neighbors of the same age.*
- ◆ *Provides avenue to keep adult residents close together and cooperative.*
- ◆ *It isn't a big drive like it could be for some highschoolers.*
- ◆ *For kids in the town meet. Builds close relationships.*
- ◆ *Not every small town needs a school. Think of cost savings!*
- ◆ *Friendships being made.*
- ◆ *Having school located in town not only allows convenience to parents, but provides connection. I have personally been able to meet and interact with many neighbors because of meeting them through school functions in just the 4 short weeks since school started (we are new to town).*
- ◆ *As a parent with a special needs child, the small classes with access to shared resources has been incredibly important. The staff/faculty are able to really invest and get to know the kids. Having a small school is part of living in a small town and a draw for families not wanting to expose kids to larger town/city issues.*
- ◆ *Builds community convenient transportation. Involved with school and families. Pride in local town.*
- ◆ *A sense of community. Shorter bus routes; less time for transportation for the kids. Small class sizes.*
- ◆ *It is our community. It's our pride. It's our future.*
- ◆ *Teacher/student ratio. Keep it low.*
- ◆ *Convenience/time management.*
- ◆ *The sense of community connection it provides. Parents and children interact with teachers both in school and throughout town.*
- ◆ *Connection with the community.*
- ◆ *Brings students together with short distance but does not outweigh what they could have in larger school.*
- ◆ *Older town [illegible] have opportunity to be involved. Children always add to the quality of town functions.*
- ◆ *Small class sizes, should give more teacher attention per student.*
- ◆ *Close to home. Small class sizes.*
- ◆ *Kids know friends that are local to them. An elementary school draws young families. The school and community can develop support for each other.*
- ◆ *Sense of community. Town meeting center.*
- ◆ *It keeps our children close to home while they're young and shorter bus rides. It also engages them with local friends and friendships.*
- ◆ *Shorter bus routes.*
- ◆ *Teacher/student ratio is lower. That is a great benefit.*
- ◆ *Sense of community.*

“What town service or facility is currently lacking in this town?”

- ◆ *Volunteerism is lacking.*
- ◆ *Swimming pool.*
- ◆ *Dog park, rec center, and daycare. Oak park needs many improvements.*
- ◆ *Lifeguards.*
- ◆ *DPW.*
- ◆ *We’re happy the way it is.*
- ◆ *So am I!*
- ◆ *Improvements to Oak Park. Sidewalk from oak park/GSP to downtown.*
- ◆ *Outdated playground. No “drop in” central rec center. No before or after school care for working parents.*
- ◆ *Gym for adults and children. Boys/girls club/afterschool.*
- ◆ *Day care and aftercare.*
- ◆ *Preschool and daycare.*
- ◆ *Public WiFi at all municipal buildings.*
- ◆ *Afterschool programs and daycare.*
- ◆ *Full time specials teachers and special education.*
- ◆ *Nothing. Some people just want to live in the country, with low taxes.*
- ◆ *A really nice children’s playground facility.*
- ◆ *Before and afterschool care for working parents. Peterborough has a great program but it’s only for Peterborough. We are all ConVal. Why one town when there is a need?*
- ◆ *Improvements to Oak Park that has aging infrastructure. Walkable downtown/main street. Rail trail from Oak Park to town.*
- ◆ *Recreational options. Rail trail. More sports for all ages.*

Hancock Town Meeting

Token Polling Results

Option	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
“Keep ConVal just like it is now, even if it is more expensive than other options and likely means reduced options for middle school and high school students.”	12	16	9	26
“Keep all the elementary schools, but move grades 5 and 6 back to them to help fill them up. This could save money, but would likely reduce academic and enrichment options for students in grades 5 and 6.”	31	16	24	1
“Combine only some of the elementary schools in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save some money.”	19	28	16	4
“Combine as many schools as possible (including perhaps the middle schools) in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save money.”	14	6	13	32

Token Polling Comments

- ◆ *By combining 5th and 6th grade would that mean middle school? What if just 5th could move back? Could we be more specific about enrichment? What does that look like? The language on these choices is very skewed to all or nothing.*
- ◆ *I was just asked to spend \$1M on 5 options which included TWO for increasing programming for middle/high school students. I'd spend that on an elementary school that included grades 5+6.*
- ◆ *Cur administrative costs.*
- ◆ *Look at reconfiguring grade levels. Keep the elementary schools and combine K-5.*
- ◆ *What about K-5 elementary, 6-8 middle, and 9-12 high school?*
- ◆ *If 5th and 6th stay at elementary schools, elementary kids need MORE enrichment and sports for 4th-6th grades AT LEAST.*
- ◆ *No reason that moving grades should mean lowering academic/enrichment options.*
- ◆ *I feel there are too many schools. The need is not there for the number of available students.*
- ◆ *Please consider + make an option putting pre 3 and pre 4 into the elementary school.*
- ◆ *Close Great Brook and send 5th grade back to the elementary schools.*
- ◆ *Decertify the teachers union.*
- ◆ *Pay them for performance.*
- ◆ *Cut admin staff in half.*
- ◆ *Cut superintendents salary by 25%.*
- ◆ *ConVal school system is poorly run fiscally. Teacher salaries are too high.*
- ◆ *I would like more options thinking outside the box.*
- ◆ *It would be good to know what the expected cost of keeping the status quo would be.*
- ◆ *These questions are highly skewed and do not use neutral words. This process feels arbitrary and does not fully provide substantiated numbers, data, and what is best for kids.*
- ◆ *The wording on these options is not neutral. Also, there is not enough information to decide.*

- ◆ *There are biased forced choice descriptions. Keeping as is only suggests the negative. Consolidating is only presented as better. There is no recognition of what is lost and gained by each choice. Poorly worded... or intentionally so.*
- ◆ *I don't think any of the options are nuanced enough or explained well enough.*
- ◆ *My top choice for this option is to combine the two middle schools.*

Be a Board Member Results

Option	Votes
"Retain our small-town elementary school."	36
"Improve our town, such as purchasing a new fire truck, improving roads, etc."	1
"Expand student academic options at the middle or high schools, such as starting a World Languages Program, enhancing advanced coursework options, etc."	14
"Improve student options at the middle or high schools, such as adding more sports, expanding music/theater activities, etc."	1
"Lower property taxes by not spending those funds."	8

Be a Board Member Comments

- ◆ *If a school is closed in a given town – if the district owns the building and parking lot – rent it out to the town on a temp basis. If the population goes up in 10-15 years, there is already a school building available and it will save the cost of building new.*
- ◆ *My property tax is being wasted.*
- ◆ *Expand these options in elementary grades. Why wait for middle school? Time to think outside the box with multi-grade classes and more teachers.*
- ◆ *I am not voting; these are not reasonable either/or choices. (x5)*
- ◆ *Options for improving academics should extend to Elementary schools.*
- ◆ *Expanding programs like language are a great idea but there is limited time to include this. I believe Phys Ed should only be required one quarter.*
- ◆ *Easy - Fire the superintendent, lower admin salaries.*
- ◆ *Academic options need to be improved.*
- ◆ *The decision must be about education, not funding. The state needs to fully support PUBLIC education. Stop nickel and diming the students and teachers.*
- ◆ *Why are these only "forced choice" options? I'd like to see foreign language started in elementary school, for instance.*
- ◆ *I'd like to see the two middle schools combined so that there is equity between the two middle school experiences. Which, currently I don't think is the reality.*
- ◆ *Expand academic, language, advance work starting in elementary school.*
- ◆ *The programs that we have at the middle school are great, but they need more funding.*
- ◆ *Parent opinions will likely be heavily skewed by where their child is currently attending school.*
- ◆ *Less sports, more academics.*
- ◆ *No other sports, need more options in the arts.*
- ◆ *Sports are only for the few, more is needed for students not physically capable.*
- ◆ *This is just such a biased survey.*
- ◆ *Improve our town by encouraging/supporting/financing – Affordable homes for families, and high speed broadband internet. We can't have vibrant schools if we don't have families.*

- ◆ *Improve assessment scores.*
- ◆ *Improve offerings to motivated/advanced students.*
- ◆ *These choices are unreasonable and not nuanced.*
- ◆ *Not mentioned is a recalibration of administration expense/overhead.*
- ◆ *Alternative: Close a middle school (or both) and expand grades in the elementary schools.*
- ◆ *If I was on the select board, I hope we'd all (board members) be thinking more creatively than these limited options offered. Why are we only offering expanded options for older students.*
- ◆ *Look at administrative SAU costs.*
- ◆ *Reconfigure grade levels – possibly close one or both middle schools.*
- ◆ *Retain local elementary schools.*
- ◆ *Fill up the elementary schools with public pre 3 and pre 4 for 3+4 year olds so moms can work.*
- ◆ *Yes, let 5th and 6th grades stay in elementary if you can't do the above.*
- ◆ *Bring back the Arts Enrichment Program and other opportunities in the elementary and middle schools.*
- ◆ *Expand the elementary school to include the 5th and 6th grade. Keep the elementary school.*
- ◆ *Retain the smaller schools and expand grades K-5.*
- ◆ *Some elementary schools need to be closed like Hancock.*
- ◆ *Don't lose the elementary school.*
- ◆ *These choices shouldn't be mutually exclusive. We'd be willing to pay higher taxes. I'd love to see programs enhanced but keeping elementary schools local is SO important.*
- ◆ *Have one middle school.*
- ◆ *There is nothing here about expanded options for elementary schools.*
- ◆ *How about RAISING property taxes so that these other options are also possible. I support this even though I have no school age children.*

Post-It Activities

“What does a great school have?”

- ◆ *Caring, compassionate, and well educated teachers.*
- ◆ *Creative thinking, curiosity, a healthy level of challenge to encourage each student, arts exploration, and well supported teachers/staff.*
- ◆ *Great, well paid teachers.*
- ◆ *Parental commitment.*
- ◆ *Small classes and teachers that stay and form connections.*
- ◆ *Parent + family participation, community involvement, caring staff, happy students, and support for growth.*
- ◆ *Dedicated teachers, a good teacher to student ratio, and arts/music.*
- ◆ *Great teachers who can use their passion to connect with their students. To get great teachers we need highly competitive pay and supportive administration.*
- ◆ *Engaged teachers, knowledgeable teachers. Look for ways to involve all students.*
- ◆ *Caring teachers, small class sizes, fun/age appropriate outdoor space, lots of specialty classes, and research based protocols and curriculum.*
- ◆ *Local community support and presence.*
- ◆ *Longevity in staff to make better connections across grades.*
- ◆ *A sense of community to be an important part of the fabric of a community. To be a resource to the community. A place where children receive positive and memorable experiences.*

- ◆ *Small classes and a local school in town.*
- ◆ *Diversity of all kinds. Making sure EVERY student is and feels and seen and valued and liked!*
- ◆ *Dedicated, caring, well-educated teachers.*
- ◆ *Engaged ready to learn students.*
- ◆ *Engaged, caring, and educated community members.*
- ◆ *A great school has as many enriching and high leverage, engaging activities, and high performance academic opportunities for students. A place where students have in depth subject study and time to form and be part of a growing community.*
- ◆ *Leadership, staff, and community support.*
- ◆ *Great teaching staff and volunteer parents who support the staff and their kids.*
- ◆ *Good leadership and a low turnover rate of staff.*
- ◆ *Full time principal enrichment.*
- ◆ *Manageable class sizes.*
- ◆ *A well maintained playground and field.*
- ◆ *Great teachers.*
- ◆ *A place where parents, children, and teachers come together.*
- ◆ *Strong leadership and teachers who are supported and well paid.*
- ◆ *Active learning opportunities – science, STEM, and a robust curriculum.*
- ◆ *Small student to teacher ratios.*
- ◆ *Caring and qualified high quality teachers.*
- ◆ *Strong educational outcomes in reading, math, and science.*
- ◆ *Sense of community, belonging for students.*
- ◆ *Enrichment programs.*
- ◆ *Dedicated teachers.*
- ◆ *Community and parent involvement.*
- ◆ *Engaging academics.*
- ◆ *Up to date facilities.*
- ◆ *School pride amongst all stakeholders.*
- ◆ *Supportive staff and community involvement.*
- ◆ *After school activities and clubs.*
- ◆ *Robust arts program.*
- ◆ *Good/reasonable/small student to staff ratio.*
- ◆ *A culture of acceptance and tolerance.*
- ◆ *Excellent qualified and experienced teachers.*
- ◆ *Class sizes that aren't too large.*
- ◆ *Administration, staff, and a community that is committed to educating and empowering students to succeed. Regardless of funding, resources, and class size.*
- ◆ *Enthusiasm for learning and play.*
- ◆ *Great teachers – well supported.*
- ◆ *Great students of all abilities.*
- ◆ *Vocational training that is hands on and not just high tech.*
- ◆ *Business mentors & inspiring community participation.*
- ◆ *Elder connection and service component.*
- ◆ *Balance of academics + arts and music.*
- ◆ *In town – in the community.*
- ◆ *Opportunities for enriched learning like programs we have.*

- ◆ *Enrichment opportunities.*
- ◆ *Community support goes both ways where the school is part of the fabric of the community.*
- ◆ *Curriculum that address the social emotional well-being of students + staff.*
- ◆ *Community, love, and dedication.*
- ◆ *Excellent (unarmed) teachers and staff.*
- ◆ *Access to Advanced placement learning opportunities.*
- ◆ *Kind, caring staff and teachers.*
- ◆ *Community support.*
- ◆ *Great teachers.*
- ◆ *Enough well paid staff.*
- ◆ *Students, staff, resources for teaching, parents, specialists, community volunteers, local expertise, and local history.*
- ◆ *Excellent teachers, supportive parents, community volunteers, and a local school.*
- ◆ *No guns ever.*
- ◆ *Conservative teachers, more students than in Hancock, and a business approach.*
- ◆ *State funding, great teachers, well paid teachers, and volunteer support.*
- ◆ *Kind and talented staff.*
- ◆ *Comfortable facilities that are conducive to learning.*
- ◆ *A community focus, enforced by special events.*
- ◆ *Resiliency in the face of change.*
- ◆ *Community.*
- ◆ *Community involvement, resources, committed staff, school wide expectations and a sense of community.*

“What is the best part about having a school located in this town?”

- ◆ *It would be even better if the school was used for more community gatherings and engagements.*
- ◆ *Without kids here, I don't feel very connected.*
- ◆ *Community to attract young families to buy.*
- ◆ *Families are more likely to live in town.*
- ◆ *Seeing children walk to school.*
- ◆ *Local friends/easy to meet up.*
- ◆ *Easy to get kids to and from school.*
- ◆ *Small/ideal size classrooms.*
- ◆ *Community connections, less time away from home for children.*
- ◆ *It makes the community feel more alive.*
- ◆ *We do not want to be a town of old people.*
- ◆ *Builds community. Easy access to the school/events/playgrounds.*
- ◆ *The sense of community.*
- ◆ *It is a great school with great teachers.*
- ◆ *Smiling, happy, and safe kids.*
- ◆ *Just look at his room, very diverse.*
- ◆ *The community it creates.*

- ◆ *Having a school in this town has allowed my children to be part of a small, welcoming community. They are provided with the tools that they need through quality instruction and enriching opportunities that not all public schools can provide.*
- ◆ *Heart of the community.*
- ◆ *Attracts young families.*
- ◆ *Was a great school for our young children.*
- ◆ *A small school, good for teachers, a place for community involvement.*
- ◆ *It is an important part of connection for the children.*
- ◆ *Attract young families.*
- ◆ *Diverse town/lively.*
- ◆ *Not a retirement community.*
- ◆ *School is centered on the children of this community with important connection between all parts/types of residences.*
- ◆ *Community community community.*
- ◆ *Kids are close to their houses and friends.*
- ◆ *My kids are able to meet their peers through town activities. They are able to create friendships that span outside of their grades.*
- ◆ *Close commute is wonderful.*
- ◆ *Kids make connections that last.*
- ◆ *Having my children go to school so close and building a tight knit community.*
- ◆ *So much support for the kids and schools in this town.*
- ◆ *So many activities for kids to participate in here – it all leads to a strong community.*
- ◆ *It can be a unifying force but if too small can also divide and also NOT provide an adequate education.*
- ◆ *Children are the future of these communities. If they go to other towns, ties are broken. They will not have any interest in staying nearby.*
- ◆ *Being part of a community makes school feel like home.*
- ◆ *Becoming and learning about the town the kids live in.*
- ◆ *The best part is having a center for learning in Hancock that the children know is home.*
- ◆ *Potential for family growth, new blood into the town.*
- ◆ *Public elementary schools, including HES, are vital to our community. They provide effective and fair educational opportunities and support local engagement, service, and economics.*
- ◆ *Community connection.*
- ◆ *Attracts young families.*
- ◆ *Diversifies the town.*
- ◆ *Smaller class sizes enable more personal and individual attention for students.*
- ◆ *Community/local connections.*
- ◆ *It is a community focus. Brings the community together.*
- ◆ *Children can walk to town to visit the public library and other community spots.*
- ◆ *Public schools are the bedrock of our democracy, they provide community cohesion.*
- ◆ *School is our future and the heart of our community.*
- ◆ *Seeing the kids bicycle to school.*
- ◆ *Having a school close to us is convenient for our family. It is also nice to have a playground and field available after-hours and on weekends.*
- ◆ *Small class sizes, family-like feel in the classes, and proximity to our home.*
- ◆ *Kids are near their friends.*

- ◆ *The children know who is in their community, the school yard is a value during and after school.*
- ◆ *People have moved to this town to attend this school.*
- ◆ *Having a school contributes to a sense of community. Additionally, the lack of a local elementary school, that feels personal, will contribute to deterring young families from moving to Hancock. Also, the classroom size at Hancock fosters connection and increased attention and focus for each child.*
- ◆ *Community cohesion.*
- ◆ *Connection to the local community.*
- ◆ *Local elementary schools attract families with young children.*
- ◆ *Strengthens community.*
- ◆ *This was an amazing school for our children. There were caring and dedicated teachers, enrichment opportunities, and an amazing playground/field.*
- ◆ *Kids are close to home, get to be in small classes with friends which is important for elementary ages.*

“What town service or facility is currently lacking in this town?”

- ◆ *Would love to see the farmers market expanded.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing for families.*
- ◆ *More after school and childcare opportunities.*
- ◆ *Senior housing.*
- ◆ *Use of the HES gym by the public for REC programs should be easier.*
- ◆ *The arts.*
- ◆ *Broadband for everyone.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing for families.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing and good jobs for young families.*
- ◆ *Good connectivity, gas station, more housing options, town park set up for picnics and family gatherings.*
- ◆ *Housing and broadband internet.*
- ◆ *Public preschool for 3+4 year olds so moms can work.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing and ethnic diversity.*
- ◆ *More affordable housing.*
- ◆ *Cell and broadband.*
- ◆ *Downtown cell reception, broadband and housing that is affordable.*
- ◆ *Broadband for all.*
- ◆ *After school childcare, affordable housing, and broadband.*
- ◆ *Rec center/community center and activities for kids.*
- ◆ *Dog park, bigger playground, and broadband internet throughout the town.*
- ◆ *Senior center. Meals on wheels.*
- ◆ *Public transportation options.*
- ◆ *High speed Wi-Fi/internet.*
- ◆ *There is little care and keeping of the recreation areas. No handicap facilities and the pond.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing for families and people with average income and in-town childcare options – including before and aftercare.*
- ◆ *Recreation center.*
- ◆ *Broadband/cell services throughout town.*

- ◆ *Cell service/coverage.*
- ◆ *Internet.*
- ◆ *Gas/charging station.*
- ◆ *Recreation area that is connected to the town.*
- ◆ *Affordable childcare and afterschool activities.*
- ◆ *ATM*
- ◆ *Elderly housing.*
- ◆ *Work force housing.*
- ◆ *Hancock is darn near perfect.*
- ◆ *Diversity of all kinds.*
- ◆ *Broadband.*
- ◆ *Upkeep of the REC areas.*
- ◆ *Ethnic diversity.*
- ◆ *Broadband cell service in all parts of town.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing and opportunities to build in town.*
- ◆ *More childcare options, gas stations, and more recreation funds.*
- ◆ *Event/sports field.*
- ◆ *I don't feel that there is any part of the town that is lacking.*
- ◆ *Swimming pool, skate park, hockey rink, dog park.*
- ◆ *Community dinners.*
- ◆ *Cell service.*
- ◆ *Internet connectivity.*
- ◆ *Lack of porta-pottys at the soccer field.*
- ◆ *Good connectivity.*
- ◆ *Well equipped elementary school playground.*
- ◆ *Internet service.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing!*
- ◆ *Well-equipped elementary school playground.*
- ◆ *Wi-Fi-internet service. Cell service.*
- ◆ *Liberal arts college.*
- ◆ *More rec events for adults.*

Peterborough Town Meeting

Token Polling Results

Option	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
“Keep ConVal just like it is now, even if it is more expensive than other options and likely means reduced options for middle school and high school students.”	0	3	3	36
“Keep all the elementary schools, but move grades 5 and 6 back to them to help fill them up. This could save money, but would likely reduce academic and enrichment options for students in grades 5 and 6.”	5	7	26	3
“Combine only some of the elementary schools in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save some money.”	15	21	9	2
“Combine as many schools as possible (including perhaps the middle schools) in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save money.”	26	15	4	3

Token Polling Comments

- ◆ *Please close the small elementary schools that have so few students.*
- ◆ *Add middle school grades to elementary schools, especially in the smaller towns/schools.*
- ◆ *Retaining all elementary school is wasteful especially as northern schools are only a few miles from each other.*
- ◆ *Close both middle schools & create K-8 schools in each town.*
- ◆ *Community obligations and school support are fundamental to civilization. It costs money to meet the needs of everyone.*
- ◆ *I feel like we need to focus on academic + social + emotional + meeting kids where they are.*
- ◆ *There already is a world languages program at middle & HS!! (& advanced course work). Consolidate elem schools for enhanced student opportunities!*
- ◆ *K-8 schools are great places to build community & leadership (my favorite) skills. These programs already exist. They also keep older kids young longer. Combine middle schools. Bring 5th graders home. Maybe 6th too.*
- ◆ *The board member question is the toughest of all of the stations. Housing issues/affordability reduce the number of kids in the districts. If we can address housing comprehensively, that would be one step towards reversing student populations.*
- ◆ *Academic options should include music & art. I don't think they should be relegated to "extra-curricular."*
- ◆ *Expand academic options at both middle & high. There is so much for students to explore! Let's work to build on kids' strengths & interests to help them see that the community needs everyone's [illegible].*
- ◆ *It makes sense to have an elementary school in Peterborough. Empty school buildings or empty rooms could house many other community programs. What community programs need a home base?*

- ◆ *I would combine middle schools so kids have = opportunities and get to know each other as younger students rather than waiting til 9th grade.*
- ◆ *Purchasing new fire trucks, improving roads – those are necessary community obligations which must be funded outside of school obligations.*
- ◆ *This is a luxury which is not sustainable.*
- ◆ *This is a bit of a false choice w/ academics – can (& should) do some of each.*
- ◆ *I think we need to change beginning times for HS/JHS students be later & elem to be earlier. If sports need more time, have some practice before school (students could go on elem buses?) as well as after.*

Be a Board Member Results

Option	Votes
“Retain our small-town elementary school.”	3
“Improve our town, such as purchasing a new fire truck, improving roads, etc.”	1
“Expand student academic options at the middle or high schools, such as starting a World Languages Program, enhancing advanced coursework options, etc.”	19
“Improve student options at the middle or high schools, such as adding more sports, expanding music/theater activities, etc.”	6
“Lower property taxes by not spending those funds.”	13

Be a Board Member Comments

- ◆ *All the elementary schools have distinct wings. Why not divide them – move all the school functions into one wing, and lease out space in the other wing to businesses or even housing?*
- ◆ *5th grade in [illegible] elementary school, perhaps 6th grade too. Keep little children in home towns. Combine middle school students – not 2 schools.*
- ◆ *Why be reduced options for middle & high school students. Pear down CVHS staff only < 700 students.*
- ◆ *Like the idea of another attendee to block of wings of some of the bldgs. & renting office space.*
- ◆ *Status quo makes no sense and costs much cents.*
- ◆ *What about moving 5th grade to elementary? (Option is only for 5th & 6th to move)*
- ◆ *Move grade 5 only to elementary since they have less extracurricular options (sports).*
- ◆ *Please don’t send 7th & 8th graders to the high school. My 2 middle schoolers really do not like the idea – worried they’ll get exposed to drugs, etc. SMS has a really great school culture. We are open to combining middle schools.*
- ◆ *Combining schools would be fine, but 7th and 8th grade should stay in middle school. I strongly disagree with sending 5th and 6th grade to elementary school. I am in 6th grade, and I’ve loved SMS.*

Post-It Activities

“What does a great school have?”

- ◆ *Teachers & facility > supported, engage, paid.*
- ◆ *A library. Teachers with open minds and hearts. A sense of caring community. NO BULLYING; social & emotional supports. Nurse in the building. Encourage creativity, exposure to arts and nature.*
- ◆ *Sports, many classes, many extracurricular programs.*
- ◆ *Great staff and families with children.*
- ◆ *Engaging teachers/curriculum. Arts/music/sports/tech. Enough kids per class that kids aren't constrained to same tiny crowd every year for elementary and middle school. EMOTIONAL/ACADEMIC support. Hands-on learning (not just book learning) to address multiple styles of learning.*
- ◆ *Well paid teachers.*
- ◆ *Great teacher to pupil ratio, open communication w/ parents, extracurricular activities, good reputation.*
- ◆ *Great & creative teachers. Lots of outside time. High academic standards balanced w/ meeting students where they are. Teach the whole child – head, heart & hands.*
- ◆ *Shared vision of growth, intellectual, emotional & physical, for the students.*
- ◆ *Engaged teachers & students. Challenging academics for all levels. Diversity of subjects to explore: STEM, arts, vocation.*
- ◆ *Time outside, choices, professional teachers, arts enrichment, environmental education of local landscape, community partners, project based learning, a vibrant library, well paid teachers who stay, social-emotional literacy.*
- ◆ *High quality & well paid teachers. Enriching activities. Meeting kids where they are at and supporting/challenging them academically. Counselors, food, whatever supports kids/families need. Safe spaces – gender expression, racial identity, income levels – so all kids feel valued.*
- ◆ *Positive experience with support from their community in: education, enrichment, sports, extra activities.*
- ◆ *A-M-A-Z-I-N-G learning opportunities. HIGH RIGOR – in academics to the work, in activities reach for excellence. Doesn't need to be elitist. Make it EXCELLENT on every level & not going to a low, low bar (as it has been).*
- ◆ *Outdoor opportunities.*
- ◆ *Competent, caring, capable, compassionate & wise teachers!! A caring community which recognizes indiv needs & the larger community of learners. Clean – safe – welcoming – interesting.*
- ◆ *Well funded: ARTS, SCIENCE & GUIDANCE & LANGUAGES (all decimated). High community involvement. Opportunities for meaningful connection (more internships, more Harris Center, more trips -> less bizarre ways to de-emphasize academics).*
- ◆ *DIVERSITY (people, curricula, activities). INFORMED INSTRUCTION. PASSIONATE (adequately paid) teachers. Up-to-date equipment, books, media, supplies, nourishing food. Well-planned schedules. Stable staff/faculty.*
- ◆ *Well paid & educated teachers.*
- ◆ *Great teachers. Smart administration that leads. Community support & connection. High expectations for academics, social interactions.*

- ◆ *Dedicated, caring teachers. Good ideas and learning. Hands on learning. Ability to push oneself as student into levels past grade. Loving environment.*
- ◆ *Good teachers. Safety.*
- ◆ *Well paid teachers and a challenging curriculum.*
- ◆ *An atmosphere that encourages risk-taking. Opportunities for students to direct their own learning with adult partners who promote self-assessment.*
- ◆ *All options available for kids.*
- ◆ *Opportunities for children to grow academically, intellectually, socially, emotionally.*
- ◆ *A great school has a sufficient number of students to have a variety of classes and clubs, and the teachers are well paid and effective and the leadership clearly communicates w/ parents.*
- ◆ *Great teachers. Engaged parents.*
- ◆ *Support for children from all walks of (socioeconomic) life and differing abilities.*
- ◆ *A great school has: academic, social, emotional, sports, clubs, opportunities, as well as, community involvement and confidence in oneself and others.*
- ◆ *Inspiring teacher/mentors. Promoting a multiplicity of perspectives. Greater value assigned to good questions than to good/"right" answers.*
- ◆ *Great teachers.*
- ◆ *Caring & competent teachers who are respected & supported administratively & compensated financially.*
- ◆ *Great teachers & facilities. All specials. Strong curriculum – with lots of hands-on learning. Communication w/ families. Quality materials. Library. Computer ed.*
- ◆ *Community. Connection w/ people and organizations outside the school.*
- ◆ *Great teachers. Lots of opportunities for students. Well paid teachers.*
- ◆ *An environment that is SAFE and the focus is on creating an environment where COMMUNICATION skills are taught – reading, writing, discussing!*
- ◆ *Great programs that engage students in purposeful activities! Communication w/ parents, students, teachers and most important community -> let us know about achievements.*
- ◆ *Academic rigor. Strong social/community ties. Services for ALL -> special services integrated w/ regular classes. High quality teachers (well paid). Equity – walkable/busable/afterschool activities plus transport.*

“What is the best part about having a school located in this town?”

- ◆ *Shorter bus rides. Get to know the community & other people w/ children of similar age.*
- ◆ *Community engagement & participation.*
- ◆ *Creates a happy and vibrant community as long as there are enough families to run it!*
- ◆ *Kids can walk or bike to school, meet kids in their neighborhood or community, use existing nice learning facilities.*
- ◆ *It’s located near the high school.*
- ◆ *It’s important to the community, but housing costs & lack of inventory makes it hard for families to live here.*
- ◆ *Community building. Can ride bike to school. Sports at school. A local playground.*
- ◆ *Easy access to events, way to build community. Grade school/middle school/HS all in town.*
- ◆ *I love classes being able to walk into their “village” so easily & integrate downtown resource into school studies. The Monadnock Center, the architecture & history studies, the Nubanuset Brook confluence with Contoocock River, elder communities, to name a few.*

- ◆ *Peterborough has so much to offer students: academically and many extracurricular activities. It has the population to support a great education all around.*
- ◆ *It provides a hub of activity in a variety of ways.*
- ◆ *P'boro is the largest town in the district...It makes sense to have it here!*
- ◆ *A center for interaction. Probably least important for Peterborough because we have an actual downtown.*
- ◆ *It is the town they live in. Close to all of the community they live in.*
- ◆ *Of course it's nice for connection BUT so many kids from other towns come to PES when they have needs. It disproportionately impacts the school. If everyone were here, there would be sufficient resources to meet needs. Instead, the ConVal "private school" system (as the small schools are called) continues.*
- ◆ *High present of kids able to walk to school. Kids forming friendships/relationships with kids that live nearby. Creating community.*
- ◆ *It allows children to go to school with their neighbors, which builds community. NOT on a bus ride for hours!*
- ◆ *Peterboro already has an excellent existing elementary school which could accommodate MANY more students. A ready made solution to "problem" of closing some under-enrolled small town schools.*
- ◆ *Large elementary allows more enrichment and academic opportunities for the kids.*
- ◆ *Schools are great community builders – kids, families, teachers, staff & admin.*
- ◆ *Halloween parade. Interactions with library & Monadnock Center.*
- ◆ *Save on gas. Shorter ride to & from school.*
- ◆ *Being local in every sense of the word. Not limiting children's relationships based on town of residence – harder to spend time w/ kids 30 +/- min away.*
- ◆ *Not having young students traveling out of town for early education grades.*
- ◆ *The school has a healthy student body (good numbers), so it is able to give the students a well-rounded education.*
- ◆ *Know your neighbors.*
- ◆ *More to offer.*
- ◆ *Short bus ride.*
- ◆ *Shorter bus ride. Friends are more local, easier to get together outside school hours. Fosters community spirit. Easier to participate in after-school activities – rec dept, scouts, etc.*

“What town service or facility is currently lacking in this town?”

- ◆ *Community education classes.*
- ◆ *Infant/early childcare.*
- ◆ *Housing. Recreational area. Indoor sports complex.*
- ◆ *Pool – at or across the street from ConVal.*
- ◆ *High performing schools.*
- ◆ *Housing for all levels. Indoor pool/YMCA. Childcare. Trader Joes.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing.*
- ◆ *Sports complex.*
- ◆ *More mountain bike/connected walking paths.*
- ◆ *A rec center (YMCA/gym). More bikeable areas. More of a culture of biking (to school, downtown). Anything that would increase diversity (of all kinds).*
- ◆ *Daycare.*

- ◆ *Services for high school graduates with special needs. Affordable child care.*
- ◆ *ACTUALLY affordable single family homes.*
- ◆ *Affordable DAY CARE for families that are working! Both parents!!*
- ◆ *Common sense leadership. Not losing 2 mil to a scam.*
- ◆ *Childcare.*
- ◆ *Housing for all income levels.*
- ◆ *Sports place indoor – basketball & soccer. Everyone drive 30min – 2hrs to get to one.*
- ◆ *Indoor pool.*
- ◆ *Updated fire station.*
- ◆ *Transportation – should be a bus looping around town.*
- ◆ *Housing.*
- ◆ *Housing.*
- ◆ *Housing. Childcare.*
- ◆ *Larger fire station.*
- ◆ *Enriching discussions for all ages (e.g. science café).*
- ◆ *Lack affordable housing. Transportation. Affordable day care. Affordable senior center: 250 hr/ [illegible] use community ctr programs???*
- ◆ *Sidewalks out to the rural areas.*
- ◆ *Too many to list.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing!!!!*
- ◆ *We need more sidewalks and pedestrian friendly infrastructure.*
- ◆ *Housing available and affordable to adults with disabilities.*
- ◆ *The wellness center closing left a big hole. Very healthy, physically, socially, emotionally.*
- ◆ *Affordable daycare(infant to pre-school). More housing/house/rentals for people earning \$20-40,000/yr (our kids who want to stay). Indoor pool/YMCA type of facility.*
- ◆ *Community solar serving LMI residents.*
- ◆ *A large performance or gathering place w/ a stage. Gymnastic school. Adult ed classes.*
- ◆ *We need to have more “missing middle” housing to provide much more rental and moderate income housing.*
- ◆ *Child care.*
- ◆ *Wellness center. Indoor pool.*
- ◆ *Bike lanes. Bike racks. Sidewalks on 101 & 202 & other side union.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing.*
- ◆ *Indoor pool. Swim lessons.*
- ◆ *Day program for adults! Who are not able to go to Rivermead!*
- ◆ *Affordable housing.*
- ◆ *Programs for young adults who graduate with an IEP.*
- ◆ *More affordable housing.*
- ◆ *Affordable housing. Rentals the are affordable.*
- ◆ *Affordable daycare.*
- ◆ *A place for teens to meet. Could be a dance place 2x a week or a late night café.*

Sharon Town Meeting

Token Polling Results

Option	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
“Keep ConVal just like it is now, even if it is more expensive than other options and likely means reduced options for middle school and high school students.”	0	0	0	1
“Keep all the elementary schools, but move grades 5 and 6 back to them to help fill them up. This could save money, but would likely reduce academic and enrichment options for students in grades 5 and 6.”	0	1	5	5
“Combine only some of the elementary schools in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save some money.”	2	7	3	0
“Combine as many schools as possible (including perhaps the middle schools) in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save money.”	0	1	3	3

Token Polling Comments

- ◆ *Design a system with as few schools necessary with a max bus ride of 50 minutes*
- ◆ *Two K-3 lower el., two 4-6 upper el., 7-12 H.S.*
- ◆ *Bring back reading, writing and math. Get rid of Dept. of Ed and teachers union*

Be a Board Member Results

Option	Votes
“Retain our small-town elementary school.”	0
“Improve our town, such as purchasing a new fire truck, improving roads, etc.”	0
“Expand student academic options at the middle or high schools, such as starting a World Languages Program, enhancing advanced coursework options, etc.”	9
“Improve student options at the middle or high schools, such as adding more sports, expanding music/theater activities, etc.”	1
“Lower property taxes by not spending those funds.”	6

Be a Board Member Comments

- ◆ N/A

Post-It Activities

“What does a great school have?”

- ◆ *Space, good teachers*
- ◆ *Focus on teaching reading, writing, arithmetic & to think*
- ◆ *A great school has a sense of security and belonging, where learning is fun and individual needs can be met*

- ◆ *Reading, writing and math*
- ◆ *Library; competent, caring, well paid staff; sports and PE programs; art and music programs; well supported Special Ed*
- ◆ *Opportunities for all children – not all services can be available to all of the smaller schools*

“What is the best part about having a school located in this town?”

- ◆ *We did not have an elementary school in town + the children had a wonderful experience in Peterborough.*
- ◆ *We don't have a school and did fine sending our children to Peterborough.*
- ◆ *We do not have a school in this town. Our daughter rides the bus for 15 minutes in the morning and 60 minutes in the afternoon. The best part of having a consistent school is the consistency in relationships that have been built.*
- ◆ *Withdraw from police (?), go to Jaffery or New Epswich*
- ◆ *Good? No school in our town because we have so few students. Maybe other small towns can do the same.*
- ◆ *Sharon does not/has NOT had an elementary school...no problem!*
- ◆ *Other towns don't realize that they will be fine without a school. We are.*
- ◆ *Our daughter did not have a school in our town to go to. It served her well to go to PES – she met other children, had opportunity to have different classmates as she progressed through school. Benefited from the resources available for PE/Art/Music.*

“What town service or facility is currently lacking in this town?”

- ◆ *Not enough people stepping up to serve the town*
- ◆ *Withdraw from the school system*
- ◆ *We need better internet*
- ◆ *It appears difficult to get back-up support for town functions because we have so few townspeople. The same people keep stepping up. May rezone for some multi-family dwellings*

Temple Town Meeting

Token Polling Results

Option	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
“Keep ConVal just like it is now, even if it is more expensive than other options and likely means reduced options for middle school and high school students.”	13	16	9	11
“Keep all the elementary schools, but move grades 5 and 6 back to them to help fill them up. This could save money, but would likely reduce academic and enrichment options for students in grades 5 and 6.”	35	14	5	2
“Combine only some of the elementary schools in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save some money.”	4	15	19	3
“Combine as many schools as possible (including perhaps the middle schools) in order to provide students with better academic/enrichment options and save money.”	4	4	6	24

Token Polling Comments

- ◆ *The elementary schools in the small town are relatively new. There is room to expand if needed. PES has no room to add on if needed and the bus pick up is dangerous. What if PES students were split among small schools and bused to the AM schools? So, a Peterborough child riding on the Temple side of town would be bussed to Temple, Dublin side to Dublin, etc. We tweak the school starting times so the bus starts on Peterborough and picks up PES kids, then comes to Temple and picks up those elementary kids and bring them to school. Then bus picks up Temple Middle and high schoolers and takes them to school, saving time and bus money.*
- ◆ *Bringing 5th and 6th grade back would not have to be less enriching. Teachers/principles are creative and could together create interesting activities for the whole school, or for groups of grades.*
- ◆ *It's a shame that this option only has ONE solution and the wording of the outcome is EXTREMELEY and INTENTIONALLY limiting and negative. BE AN EDUCATOR!! Think outside of the damn box.*
- ◆ *Combine the middle schools. Move grade 8 to HS, move 5th back to town schools.*
- ◆ *Soft boards.*
- ◆ *Educate 5th graders in the elementary schools, 8th graders at the high schools, 6-7 at SMS. Close Great Brook.*

Be a Board Member Results

Option	Votes
“Retain our small-town elementary school.”	36
“Improve our town, such as purchasing a new fire truck, improving roads, etc.”	0
“Expand student academic options at the middle or high schools, such as starting a World Languages Program, enhancing advanced coursework options, etc.”	5
“Improve student options at the middle or high schools, such as adding more sports, expanding music/theater activities, etc.”	1
“Lower property taxes by not spending those funds.”	6

Be a Board Member Comments

“Retain our small-town elementary school.”

- ◆ *Yes! Give the kids the support that helps them flourish!*
- ◆ *Retain our school and use it for more than just school.*
- ◆ *Towns need a sense of community and that is born through the school. Put Preschool into our town. Why give to other towns and not us? People would move to our town if preschool was an option and they knew their children would remain in town.*
- ◆ *Keep our schools!*
- ◆ *Yes – worth a million bucks*
- ◆ *CRUCIAL to keep elementary school in communities*
- ◆ *Expand – positive word. Improve – positive word. Lower taxes – positive word. “Retain” – neutral wording here is very loaded. Money should be spent on education.*
- ◆ *Keep our schools in our town. Send our 5th grade students back to their towns!! STOP!! Threatening to close the elementary schools!*
- ◆ *This is the only option? Taxes will never go down.*

“Improve our town, such as purchasing a new fire truck, improving roads, etc.”

- ◆ *Where would we be without a community center and emergency shelter?*
- ◆ *This has nothing to do with the schools!*
- ◆ *Combination of all SAU’s. Administrative costs are more money than school costs are.*

“Expand student academic options at the middle or high schools, such as starting a World Languages Program, enhancing advanced coursework options, etc.”

- ◆ *Educational options are vital.*
- ◆ *This is crucial. Start with elementary school (language).*
- ◆ *Expand life skills (taxes, how to buy a home). Expand the trades: plumbing, electrical, mechanical.*
- ◆ *Expand the trades: machining, electrical, plumbing.*
- ◆ *Ask the students what they want for the arts, languages, music, and extracurriculars. It’s not the same as it used to be.*

“Improve student options at the middle or high schools, such as adding more sports, expanding music/theater activities, etc.”

- ◆ *Music and theater are vital parts of education. SPORTS ARE NOT. ConVal has consistently spent far too much money on SPORTS.*
- ◆ *Music – Yes. Sports – Optional.*
- ◆ *Expansion of music and theater brings out creativity and acceptance to the student. I loved both as a child and it built my imagination and gave me confidence to show my talents.*
- ◆ *Music and theater are a vital part of education. SPORTS ARE NOT and ConVal has consistently spent far too much on sports at the detriment of REAL EDUCATION.*
- ◆ *Expanding arts and theater options in middle and elementary schools when kids are open to being creative.*
- ◆ *Add the trades to reduce college debt and we have a lack of trades people!*

“Lower property taxes by not spending those funds.”

- ◆ *Taxes will not go down no matter what!*
- ◆ *Closing TES doesn’t save Temple significant tax money.*
- ◆ *If we did not have school vouchers we would probably be able to lower our taxes.*
- ◆ *Let’s see the state pay for their share first!*
- ◆ *Good schools need money BUT taxpayers’ \$ must be spent efficiently. Maybe ConVal should dissolve...*

Post-It Activities

“What does a great school have?”

- ◆ *An institution TRULY appreciates how different kids are and respects that not all of them will learn well in the same framework/setting. A great school is not afraid of the fact that some kids are best served elsewhere (homeschool, private school, alternative school, etc.)*
- ◆ *Perhaps a better question is what makes a good public education system. Unfortunately, funding something as important as education through taxes does not make for an equitable, fair, robust, or otherwise “good” system.*
- ◆ *Small classes. Outstanding teachers. Parent-teacher relationships with easy access to each other for communication. Natural world access.*
- ◆ *Small class sizes. Energized staff that love their students. Supportive community members. Outdoor space to allow kids to play and learn from the world around them. Strong support for staff to expand their knowledge, skills, and resources.*
- ◆ *Academic and enrichment options that meet a diversity of learning styles.*
- ◆ *Small classes in elementary grades. Larger classes as kids get older so that they can be divided into more different options- being able to have non-college prep, college-prep, and honors, for example. When I went to school, my school offered the worst of all worlds: 39 kids in the 1st grade. The classes started getting smaller after 5th grade when 16 year olds dropped out. By 8th grade, there were 8 kids in my grade. My parents took me out after 8th grade and I chose the largest girls school in New England, graduating in a class of 200 girls (& 200 boys across the river). When our kids were young, TES was so crowded, we sent them to the Well School, where they were in classes of about 8 kids. They went to ConVal for 9th-12th where they had lots of educational choices because the school was large.*
- ◆ *Personal attention to each student.*
- ◆ *Sense of community.*

- ◆ *Teachers who love what they do and are passionate about helping us to raise our children to be thoughtful and caring as well as informed and educated. The small classrooms allow that opportunity to happen.*
- ◆ *Great teachers. Interaction with adults. Thanksgiving dinner for seniors.*
- ◆ *Small or multi-grade classes. Not at desk all day.*
- ◆ *Outdoor time/recess. Community involvement. Committed and well-trained educators.*
- ◆ *Support and energy from community members, school leaders, teachers, and the “power to be” entity to set the best example to our youth and younger generation of what it takes to believe in what is possible. For the BEST community outcome. Vision to act on the idea and possibilities for the best educational curriculum and learning environment. Diversity incorporated into the home base instead of shutting down with outcome that only serves to separate and divide.*
- ◆ *Engaged children who feel safe, supported, and challenged. Small class sizes. Excellent staff who are passionate about what they do.*
- ◆ *No book bans!*
- ◆ *Smaller classes. Good teachers. Close to home.*
- ◆ *Great teachers who are well paid. Minimal overhead. All activities equally funded, whether sports, art, music... not one over the other*
- ◆ *In addition to academic studies, teach children to be respectful of other children's beliefs and social concerns regardless of their own beliefs. Help children see the world from other's point of view.*
- ◆ *Community involvement and engagement.*
- ◆ *Super teachers. Lots of enrichment. Academic rigor.*
- ◆ *Children excited to come to school. Small class sizes. Staff willing to go above and beyond. Community connections.*
- ◆ *Passionate teachers. Strong sense of community. Small class sizes. Local experience representative of where the children live.*
- ◆ *Traditions and connections to ALL of the community.*
- ◆ *Great teachers. Strong community support.*
- ◆ *Small classes. Committed teachers. Schools are the heart of the communities. Schools make towns vibrant and alive.*
- ◆ *Trade school choices.*
- ◆ *It takes a village to raise a child.*
- ◆ *Engaged students. Excellent teachers. High expectations for all. Friendly/supportive environment. Life experience classes. Happy/involved students.*
- ◆ *Temple teachers. Temple students, Temple support staff. Temple administration. Temple bus drivers.*
- ◆ *Small class sizes. Community involvement. Amazing teachers and staff.*
- ◆ *Great teachers.*
- ◆ *Great teachers and staff who care about our small school and the Temple community. Fabulous connection between students and teachers. During COVID year, we would receive handwritten greeting cards or picture from students every season! Thanksgiving dinner at school is SO important to us seniors.*
- ◆ *Happy kids. Happy families. Happy teachers.*
- ◆ *A machine shop.*
- ◆ *Community.*
- ◆ *Small class size.*

- ◆ All staff know all students.
- ◆ Small class sizes, parent volunteers, and a sense of community.
- ◆ School/town events.
- ◆ Teach kids how to read, write, and do math. Teach basic life skills. Happy kids.
- ◆ Good teacher to student ratio. Good American history trade. Good recess program so that kids can use up their energy.
- ◆ Parent support.

“What is the best part about having a school located in this town?”

- ◆ *Parents and townies will donate time, money, and materials especially in small towns.*
- ◆ *Pre-school parents from this town and others, even if we pay! PBO has PS free as taxpayer in the district (money for town and district). Temple has nothing to accommodate this for parents whose money goes elsewhere (max \$500/wk). 5th grade at TES.*
- ◆ *The individual attention for a child at a small school, especially below 50 is beyond measure. The transition to SMS and HS on bus at 6 is not acceptable or safe.*
- ◆ *Sense of community. Small class sizes. It takes a village to help raise a child and what better way to nurture than with the village you live in. Feeling like you are seen as a parent and not just a number.*
- ◆ *Shorter bus routes. Building local community. Emergency shelter for our town.*
- ◆ *Education is the best use of tax money.*
- ◆ *Long bus rides for the youngest kids is not good. School in town is critical.*
- ◆ *Small town schools are like extended family.*
- ◆ *It strengthens community and friendship among kids.*
- ◆ *TES brings townfolk together so it seems like a town.*
- ◆ *Sense of community. Helps bind relationships that then spread further through town.*
- ◆ *Close community. Creates close bond with all students. One on one with teachers! Stop with the “close the school threats”!!*
- ◆ *Community connection. Going to school with neighbors, etc. Connection and access to teaching staff. Be out in national environment.*
- ◆ *My kids both feel school is a home away from home. They are never anxious about going to school and in fact look forward to going to school every day. The small classes allow students to become individuals that are supported to such an extreme that I believe helps to develop self esteem at a much higher level than in a larger school with larger class sizes, where kids become more of a number. I have had two kids go through a large school in this district and I feel the smaller school does a better job at individualizing the kids' education. It strengthens our community having a school and brings more families to our town.*
- ◆ *Local school: community center, a place to gather and meet, and an emergency shelter.*
- ◆ *It's a place for the town to gather and strengthen the community.*
- ◆ *Brings young children close to the community and the families.*
- ◆ *The children learn about their town.*
- ◆ *I have very little trust that ConVal makes financial decisions that are unbiased.*
- ◆ *Reduced commute, more time for family.*
- ◆ *A school in town is a magnet that draws the community together.*
- ◆ *Kids should be educated whenever possible with their hometown peers to develop friendships and support from their community in their formative years.*

- ◆ *Local community based enter of education. Academic support at younger of age close to home. Reduction of time of transport. Core value of town demographic of young age group to form relationships between themselves and parents. This band is strong for community.*
- ◆ *Because of the number of students, the teachers are able to know all students in the school.*
- ◆ *Small student population allows for teachers and staff to give special attention to all. Please keep Temples students in Temple.*
- ◆ *Kids are closer to home in elementary school. Keeps classes smaller so more focus on kids.*
- ◆ *School is a community center for our town. Learning to be a good citizen and connect with all generations is very important.*
- ◆ *Our own school is a central part of a town. Property values will drop without it.*
- ◆ *Having a local school not only provides children with a sense of local community and pride, but also enriches all members of the community through engagement in local school events and local community outreach programs.*
- ◆ *Young children do not have to sit on a bus for a long ride.*
- ◆ *Community involvement. Smaller classes.*
- ◆ *Education starts at home. A local elementary school supports the entire community.*
- ◆ *It binds kid and their families to their own schools.*
- ◆ *Younger kids closer to home.*
- ◆ *Our community.*
- ◆ *The community.*
- ◆ *Local schools builds community friends for kids and support system.*
- ◆ *Close friends when going to large school. Feel of community.*
- ◆ *There's a strong sense of community among students who have attended Temple Elementary School(s), least to present. In addition, property values are higher in towns that provide their own elementary schools vs those that do not.*
- ◆ *I'm not originally from the USA. I believe local schooling is preferable. Putting a child on a bus you do not know the skill of the bus driver and NO SEATBELTS! I would drive but that is not always convenient to all parents. Local schools YES!*
- ◆ *Community. Smaller class sizes. Close to home.*
- ◆ *It's a necessary part of our community.*
- ◆ *It draws community together.*

“What town service or facility is currently lacking in this town?”

- ◆ *There are NO services or facilities missing. It's good the way it is.*
- ◆ *Don't know. It's pretty great.*
- ◆ *More trade options.*
- ◆ *Childcare, eldercare.*
- ◆ *Proper highway department.*
- ◆ *Combine SAU's (School Administrative Units). There is no reason for so many in such a small state.*
- ◆ *Can't think of anything we can't get nearby. There are no fast food restaurants or mini malls here, just a top quality elementary school with caring staff, a great general store, restaurant, and working farms. That's why I've moved here and have stayed for 43 (& 52) years.*
- ◆ *Elder care and childcare. Wish there were more opportunities for seniors and school children to interact and more outdoor recreation areas such as well groomed hiking trails, a swimming pond/pool, etc.*

- ◆ *There are more capital improvement needs that are costly in near future: fire department, highway garage, etc.*
- ◆ *We need numbers! It would be good to know how many students (or participants) we would have for these options. Thanks!*
- ◆ *Childcare.*
- ◆ *Does not apply to this discussion of school reconfiguration.*
- ◆ *Teen center.*
- ◆ *None.*
- ◆ *Nothing.*
- ◆ *Why such a negative question?*
- ◆ *If there is no school, we need an emergency shelter and places for town meetings. Our town hall is too small capacity for all our needs.*