Somerville School Construction Advisory Group (CAG)
Focus Groups Synthesis

Background

As part of its broad public input process, the City of Somerville, in collaboration with DREAM Collaborative and the Consensus Building Institute, convened six targeted focus groups to provide deeper insight into the priorities, interests, and concerns underlying the community's preferences on the school building options, particularly for the most affected and/or less represented groups. These groups included:

- Somerville Public Schools Staff
- Parents/Guardians and Abutters of Winter Hill & Brown School
- Abutters and Users of Trum Field
- Parents/Guardians of Children in Early Childhood Years (ages 0-4)
- Parents/Guardians of Multilingual Learners
- Parents/Guardians of SPS Special Education Students

Overview of Focus Group Recruitment Process

City project staff worked with community partners including Somerville Public Schools (Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, Special Education Dept./SEPAC, SPS Administration), Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs, Parks and Recreation, SomerPromise, nonprofits and community groups, daycare providers, and more to extend focus group invitations to people within relevant populations. The City also provided recruitment materials to Construction Advisory Group members to promote as they deemed appropriate. The City used geographically targeted email messages to recruit for the focus groups where the target criteria was location-based (Trum field, Brown, and Winter Hill abutters). Interested respondents were asked to provide information about themselves, confirm they met the criteria for participation in a particular group(s), and share their availability.

The goal was to identify a diverse range of approximately 8 participants for each focus group. In cases when more qualifying people expressed interest than could be accommodated in a particular focus group, interested candidates were filtered to avoid overrepresenting any particular subgroup within a focus group (e.g., avoiding overrepresenting any particular school at SPS staff group) and then selected based on availability and at random.

Overview of Focus Group Discussions

The discussions were designed to supplement the survey findings with more nuanced perspectives, to reach residents who might not otherwise participate in the process, and to deepen the City and CAG's understanding of community interests. Participants were asked about their perspectives about the size and location of the school as well as their preferences and concerns about the options and considerations about the debt override. The focus group protocol is attached as Appendix A.

The three options used for discussion are as follows:

- Option 1: Build a new school facility at the Sycamore Street site with capacity for Winter Hill current enrollment, plus some additional capacity. Keep the Brown School in its current location

on Willow Avenue, and address that school's needs later as part of a future MSBA funding application.
- Option 2: Build a new school facility at the Sycamore Street site with capacity for Winter Hill and Brown enrollment, plus some additional capacity, up to approximately 900 students.
- Option 3: Build a new school facility at Trum Field with enough capacity for Winter Hill and Brown enrollment, plus some additional capacity, up to approximately 900 students.

In this summary, we first provide a high-level synthesis of the highest priority themes that went across all or most of the focus groups, and then offer a summary of the discussions at each of the six focus groups. The summary aims to synthesize the perspectives of self-selected participants, who represent a specific set of stakeholders, based on their own words, without evaluation of accuracy or factual basis of those views. It should not be taken as fully representative of all perspectives nor as statements of fact.

Key Themes Across the Focus Groups

These themes reflect the most common considerations raised across the six focus groups.

- **Prioritizing Success of the Debt Exclusion:** The majority of focus groups highlighted success of a city-wide debt exclusion vote to support the project as a priority consideration, and participants across most of the focus groups shared concern and some skepticism about achieving a second successful debt exclusion vote for a future Brown School renovation.

- **Preserving Trum Field:** Participants almost unanimously rejected the Trum Field option, raising concerns such as traffic impacts, walkability, and the field replacement process. They also emphasized that Trum Field is a vital and beloved community resource, making Option 3 unlikely to secure the necessary votes for a debt exclusion.

- **Expanding Community Space**: Participants overall supported increasing the amount of community space in Somerville. Some participants appreciated the opportunities that a larger facility offered for community needs and activities. Participants supported finding constructive school, neighborhood, and/or community uses for vacant school buildings.

- **Maintaining Neighborhood Schools:** Most participants acknowledged the benefits of neighborhood schools. For some participants, this was sufficient to prefer keeping separate schools; however, for many, this weighed lower in their priority concerns compared to funding and other perceived drawbacks.

- **Untenable Brown School Building Conditions**: With the exception of most members of the Brown and Winter Hill Parent focus groups, participants familiar with the Brown school felt the conditions were unsafe or untenable in the short to medium term, and raised concerns about leaving its needs unaddressed in this project, given skepticism about future debt override funding for improvements to the building.

- **Concern about Vacant Buildings**: There was a lot of interest across focus groups regarding the future use of vacant school buildings and concern about creating sites that remain vacant for a long time. Multiple groups suggested using the Brown School building for pre-K and kindergarten if the schools were combined, along with other beneficial reuse suggestions.

- **Plan Transportation and Walkability:** All focus groups cited transportation as a critical consideration. Specifically, participants expressed a strong desire to create walkable schools and avoid generating

additional car congestion on already busy streets. Participants suggested that any decision should include thoughtful planning and resources to support safe and easy routes to school for all students.

- **Enhance Equity:** At least one participant in each of the groups emphasized equity as an important priority, and hoped that the final decision would both increase equity and socioeconomic integration within the schools and also promote equitable educational experiences across the District.

Summaries from Individual Focus Groups

The section below provides the highlights of views and priorities from each of the six focus groups, focusing on the concerns, benefits, and considerations offered about each of the options.

Somerville Public Schools Staff

A focus group of nine Somerville Public School staff members drawn from across the district met on October 1, 2025, and unanimously supported Option 2, combining the schools at the Sycamore Street location. Below is a summary of the staff's discussion, organized by benefits, concerns, and considerations as they relate to each of the three proposed options.

Option 1: Rebuild Separate WHCIS at Sycamore, Address Brown Later

The school staff expressed understanding of the community's connection to the Brown school but ultimately did not support addressing the Brown School's building needs separate from the Winter Hill school's building needs.

Concerns**:**

- **ADA compliance**: Staff noted that Brown school's lack of ADA compliance causes treacherous conditions for staff and students today. Conditions exclude participation by those with mobility limitations, and the City cannot wait to address the building's needs.

- **Risk:** For this group, the question was not "if" but "when" the Brown School building will fail, and they noted the tremendous risk this creates for the City and District in both the short and long term, given the lack of swing space or other attractive alternatives in the district to accommodate displaced students.

- **Debt Exclusion:** Staff felt strongly that Somerville voters were highly unlikely to support two simultaneous or sequential debt exclusion votes, and that voters are more likely to support a project that benefits more families and maximizes state funds. They also noted future facility needs at other schools and city buildings, and did not think that the City would have funding to prioritize the Brown School building's needs without MSBA support in the near future.

Option 2: Rebuild at Sycamore with Capacity for Brown

Benefits

- **Flexibility and More Educational Space:** Staff were excited about the flexibility that a larger building could offer for educational programming, including dedicated spaces for the arts, science labs, and community use (e.g., play groups). A larger facility provides more options for students in the AIM program to use and creates spaces that best support their needs.

- **Bridging Community:** Several staff suggested the benefits for students and the City if a combined school successfully increases the socioeconomic and language diversity of the student body. Combining the schools could help advance the City's equity goals by forging community between different student populations and providing more equitable education options for all.

- **Maintaining Current Location:** Staff considered Sycamore Street a central, and therefore ideal, location for a school facility. Staff members who neighbor the Winter Hill school building viewed it as a core part of its surrounding community and the neighborhood's identity.

- **Avoiding 6-8 Transitions**: Staff discussed the challenges of having one K-5 school, and appreciated that a combined school would prevent the need for a grade 6 school transition for Brown School students. This would allow for more continuity in support for students and addressing their needs over time.

- **Risk Management:** Staff emphasized avoiding a future school facility emergency for Brown School students and emphasized the value of creating swing space and extra capacity in the district.

- **Transportation:** The focus group noted that Sycamore Street is in close proximity to the High School and ideal for students who need to walk their younger siblings to school. One staff member shared that one large facility could streamline school drop off for parents with multiple children of different ages.

Concerns

- **Job Security:** One staff member feared that a consolidated school would cause the loss of school staff positions and hoped that the City would guarantee job security for all school staff across all position types, specifically non-union positions.

- **Debt Exclusion:** Given the strong priority for successfully passing a debt exclusion, there was concern that parents at the Brown School could campaign against the proposition. Participants suggested that there be intensive outreach and engagement of this community.

- **Large Size:** A few staff members raised that a K-8 school building with a capacity of 900 students would be unprecedented for Somerville and with full enrollment could be challenging for students in the AIM program.

Considerations

- **Demolition**: Staff members believed it was crucial to give assurance to the neighbors of the Sycamore Street site regarding safe removal of asbestos.

- **Building Design:** Recalling that some of the High School's design features were scaled back over time, staff recommended maximizing the initial design to increase city assets and requested that staff parking be a priority for staff traveling to the school.

- **Successful Campaign:** Staff recommended a campaign that focuses on the important role schools play in creating a thriving city and presenting a transition plan for the Brown School.

Option 3: Rebuild at Trum with Capacity for Brown

Participants unanimously opposed the Trum field option due to concerns about increasing traffic in that area, the cultural significance of the field, and the unlikely community support for a debt exclusion vote.

Parents/Guardians and Abutters of Winter Hill & Brown School

A focus group of seven Brown School parents, Winter Hill School parents, and other parents abutting the school buildings met on October 3, 2025. The group unanimously supported Option 1, addressing the Brown School and Winter Hill School's needs separately. Below is a summary of the parents' discussion, organized by benefits, concerns, and considerations as they relate to each of the three proposed options.

Option 1: Rebuild Separate WHCIS at Sycamore, Address Brown Later

Benefits

- **Neighborhood Schools:** Parents expressed appreciation for the community forged between parents living near one another. Several parents noted that they purchased their homes to be closer to a school building.
- **Walkability**: Parents highlighted the ease of getting to the schools at the Willow avenue and Sycamore street locations, and felt that walkability was a key feature of Somerville schools.
- **Support for Smaller Schools:** Parents generally preferred the current school capacities and felt that small schools were beneficial for young children and students who participate in the AIM program.

Concerns

- **Brown Building Failure:** One parent expressed concern that there appeared to be no appealing options for Brown students if the Brown School building can no longer accommodate its students.

Considerations

- **Debt Exclusion Campaign:** Several parents expressed the belief that the general public lacked awareness of the physical condition of both school buildings, and felt that success in the debt exclusion vote will ultimately depend on a strong campaign that focuses on addressing the Winter Hill school's needs. The group did not focus much on the likelihood of future success of a debt exclusion for the Brown school.
- **Future Housing Development:** One parent emphasized considering that there is housing that will be added to the west side of the city in project planning as this could affect people's proximity to schools.
- **Brown School Renovations:** One parent expressed interest in pursuing minimal renovations to the building, such as forgoing the addition of a gym or cafeteria and seeking waivers from some aspects of ADA Compliance, in order to make repairs of the Brown school affordable without a debt override.

Option 2: Rebuild at Sycamore with Capacity for Brown

Benefits

- **Consolidation of Services:** A few parents anticipated that a combined school would consolidate services and optimize resources at the school by serving as many kids as possible in one building.
- **School Transition:** Some parents noted the benefits for families and the District if Brown students would no longer need to change schools for 6th grade.

Concerns

- **Alternatives to K-8 model:** Some parents feared young children would find it challenging to navigate a school building with older children.

- **Enrollment Capacity**: Parents noted the additional complexity for administrators and school operations in a school with a larger capacity than the other schools. A few parents considered that a larger school might be challenging for students with Individualized Education Plans and in the Adapt / Include / Motivate (AIM) program for students on the autism spectrum.

- **Outdoor space:** A few parents feared losing a portion of the Winter Hill Playground and emphasized the importance of recreational space for the children.

- **Transportation:** Parents expressed concerns with traffic, distance, and additional travel time for parents in the Brown School catchment area and additional emissions if they need to drive.

- **Vacant Buildings**: Parents raised concerns about creating another vacant school building that could remain unused for a long time and be a blight on the community.

Considerations

- **School Design:** A few parents noted interest in design choices that could make a big building feel smaller.

- **Buses:** Parents asked if the City would explore busing options for students traveling from the Brown School catchment area to the Sycamore street site.

- **Healey School:** A few participants raised concern about a new facility drawing families away from enrolling in the nearby Healey school.

Option 3: Rebuild at Trum with Capacity for Brown

Participants unanimously opposed the Trum field option due to concerns about the amount of morning traffic in the area, major road crossings for young children, and the complexity and timeline of field replacement.

Abutters and Users of Trum Field

A focus group of eight Trum Field abutters and users met on October 7, 2025, and unanimously opposed building a combined school at Trum field. Participants expressed a preference for Option 2, combining the schools at the Sycamore Street location. Below is a summary of the abutters and users' discussion, organized by benefits, concerns, and considerations as they relate to each of the three proposed options.

Option 1 : Rebuild Separate WHCIS at Sycamore, Address Brown later

Benefits:

- **Neighborhood Schools:** Abutters noted that many parents preferred schools that are close to where they live. One participant noted Somerville's history of 21 small neighborhood schools, of which the Brown is the last still in use.

Concerns:

- **Equity:** Several participants felt that continuing to invest in the Brown School building was an inequitable use of city funds because the Brown serves a small population of residents and is an

outlier in the school district, providing a select number of students different educational opportunities.

- **Success of Debt Exclusion:** Participants were concerned about support for multiple overrides that would cost more and separately benefit fewer families.

- **Risk:** Without an increase in the school district's enrollment capacity, participants warned, the Brown School could face building failure and encounter the same difficulties now affecting Winter Hill School.

Option 2: Rebuild at Sycamore with Capacity for Brown

Benefits

- **Maximization of MSBA Funding:** Participants emphasized the importance of the financial component of the decision and hoped that the City would seek to maximize the MSBA funding available now.

- **Equity**: Participants felt that a larger combined school would create a centralized use of city resources and noted that a higher enrollment capacity ensured that more students, particularly those across different neighborhoods, would have access to the same quality educational opportunities.

- **ADA Accessibility**: Participants discussed the particular importance of working elevators for ADA access in a five- or six-story building, and concerns that repairs might become more challenging as the building aged. Others believed a larger facility could increase redundancy of elevator access, which could help mitigate this concern.

- **Flexible Educational Space:** Participants highlighted that the city's current lack of swing space puts pressure on other schools in the district and could cause serious issues if another building could no longer accommodate students. Participants wanted to increase enrollment capacity to increase the options for the school district in the future.

Considerations

- **Sewer System:** A few participants questioned whether the Sycamore Street site would be able to meet the plumbing needs of a large school facility and requested a feasibility study for the site.

- **Transportation:** Participants were curious about how students outside the walkable area would get to Sycamore street and suggested a transportation and traffic study for Sycamore street.

Option 3: Rebuild at Trum with Capacity for Brown

Concerns:

- **Unique Value of Trum:** Participants' raised that Trum field is the only city-owned large grass green space and is a source of pride for the abutters and the community at large. They discussed its history and cultural value and did not feel replacing a field elsewhere would compensate for the loss.

- **Transportation:** Participants highlighted that the Trum field location is not particularly walkable, even for those coming from the Brown School catchment area. Abutters noted that Broadway has a lot of traffic and is not well suited for student drop off and pick up.

- **Safety:** Abutters and users believed that the amount of large machinery entering and exiting the DPW site would be unsafe for young kids.

Considerations

- One participant noted that several roads in the area, such as Franey Road, are private.

Parents/Guardians of Children in Early Childhood Years (ages 0-4)

A focus group of nine parents and guardians of preschool-aged children met on October 8, 2025. While the group largely prioritized the value of walkability and neighborhood schools and the need for more community spaces in Somerville, participants were divided between favoring Option 1 and Option 2. The group expressed no interest in the Trum field option.

Option 1: Rebuild Separate WHCIS at Sycamore, Address Brown later

Benefits

- **Support for Smaller Schools:** Most participants expressed a preference for small schools for their own children and noted that small schools work well for parents of young children. However, some parents did not think individual preference for small schools should be prioritized above other considerations.

- **Neighborhood Schools and Walkability:** Most participants noted that being able to walk to school is a high priority for them. Some parents believed that maintaining two separate schools increased the number of walkable options for parents.

Concerns

- **Cost and Success for the Debt Exclusion:** Several participants expressed concern about the project's cost, specifically questioning whether residents would support a future stand-alone debt exclusion to renovate the Brown School. They also worried that the emergence of other expensive capital projects could further delay the Brown school's renovation.

Option 2: Rebuild at Sycamore with Capacity for Brown

Benefits

- **Community Use:** Participants were very interested in school spaces allowing for use by the entire Somerville community. They believed a bigger facility would offer more opportunities to host citywide events and community spaces like the High School's makerspace.

- **Programming Flexibility:** Participants highlighted that a bigger facility offers more space and options for different types of programming for students.

- **Enrollment Capacity**: Some participants felt as though it was important to ensure enough capacity for students in the future even if their individual preference would be for their children to attend a smaller school.

Concerns

- **Impact of Vacant Buildings:** One parent expressed concern that permanently removing the Brown School would leave the site vacant and negatively alter the neighborhood.

Considerations

- **Brown School Reuse:** Participants supported reusing the Brown school for Pre-K and playgroups**.**

- **Traffic:** Parents wanted to see how increasing the capacity of the Winter Hill location would affect traffic patterns in the neighborhood, and specifically how the school would impact the number of car trips.

Option 3: Rebuild at Trum with Capacity for Brown

Concerns

- **Loss of Trum Field:** Participants did not want to lose Trum Field. It was described as a critical "third space" for city residents, and many felt that even an in-kind field replacement elsewhere would not adequately address the community's loss.

- **Safety and Car Congestion:** Parents shared concerns that option 3 would increase car traffic and congestion. They specifically noted that the resulting level of emissions may be unsafe for children and that the added traffic on major street crossings would make walkability difficult.

Parents/Guardians of SPS Special Education Students

A focus group of seven parents of students in special education programs met on October 11th, 2025. The group (particularly Brown school and Winter Hill parents) leaned toward separate school building projects and expressed wariness about the success of the debt exclusion vote. Parents elevated outdoor and recreational space as a top priority consideration for students. Below is a summary of the parents' discussion, organized by benefits, concerns, and considerations as they relate to each of the three proposed options.

Option 1: Rebuild Separate WHCIS at Sycamore, Address Brown Later

Benefits:

- **K-5 School:** Several parents of Brown School Students highlighted the benefits of maintaining a K-5 school. Another parent believed the K-5 model created a more advantageous learning environment, compared to K-8 schools.

Concerns

- **Accessibility**: One parent highlighted the urgency of renovating the Brown School, citing its current inaccessibility to many district students and risks of excluding a Brown School student or staff member if their mobility needs changed.

- **Special Education Services Space:** One parent reported that regardless of interest in sending their child to the Brown School, the lack of dedicated special education spaces made it an untenable option for their child.

- **Success for the Debt Exclusion:** One parent felt that Somerville voters were unlikely to support two simultaneous or sequential debt exclusion votes due to "voter fatigue". The parent feared that an unsuccessful vote could jeopardize the opportunity for any new school facility, which would have large implications for the WInter Hill school and students in the AIM program.

Considerations

- **Outdoor Space:** One parent indicated that minimal outdoor recreational space at the Brown School was a significant factor in their decision not to enroll there. Several other parents similarly stressed the importance of sufficient space for students to engage in physical activity and release energy.

Options 2: Rebuild at Sycamore with Capacity for Brown

Benefits:

- **K-8 Model:** One parent advocated for the K-8 model, stating the benefits of minimizing transitions for special needs students in particular, and noting the benefits of drawing on older students to be role models.

- **Community Space:** One parent hoped that a larger facility would have community spaces for hosting community meetings and other uses.

- **Maximization of MSBA Funding**: One parent stressed that the window for receiving MSBA funding is narrow and urged the City to take full advantage of the opportunity. The parent recommended that the city explore creative design options regarding the building size if size is a priority factor.

Concerns

- **Neighborhood Impact:** Parents neighboring the site raised concerns about the building's height affecting shade and the potential impact on ice/snow melting on adjacent streets. Participants warned that neighbors in that area could campaign against this option.

- **Recreation Space**: A few participants highlighted the Winter Hill playground as an important feature of the school and neighborhood and were concerned about losing any portion of the playground. Parents emphasized the importance of space for recreation across the building options.

- **Enrollment Capacity:** One parent noted that the smaller school size fostered close relationships between principals and students, which they found crucial in navigating disciplinary issues with their child. The parent raised concern that administrators at a larger school might not have the same familiarity and deep connection with individual children due to the scale of the school.

Considerations

- **Brown School Reuse:** One participant recommended that the vacant Brown School be repurposed for Pre-K and playgroups.

- **Redistricting:** One parent urged the School Committee to ensure redistricting decisions maintain socioeconomic diversity across the schools and do not draw wealthier families away from the Healey School.

- **Fear of Overbuilding:** One parent noted that recent shifts in national trends could impact the number of families living in the City and influence future enrollment. A few parents voiced fears that the larger school building's capacity will ultimately go unused.

Options 3: Rebuild at Trum with Capacity for Brown

Benefits:

- **Outdoor Space:** One parent noted that this option would maintain the green space at Winter Hill School.

Concerns

- **Emissions:** Many parents considered the Trum Field location inappropriate for a school due to the amount of pollution resulting from its proximity to the DPW facility and heavy Broadway traffic.

- **Safety:** Parents thought that the amount of car traffic and lack of parking in the surrounding area would make traveling to the school challenging and unsafe for children, especially those with gross motor issues.

- **Debt Exclusion:** Parents expressed concern about the potential failure of the vote, citing a combination of low public awareness of the project and the unpopularity of the specific option.

Parents/Guardians of Multilingual Learners

Four participants from multilingual learner programs met for a focus group on October 9, 2025. While one participant shared a preference for Option 1, remaining participants indicated that they had no strong preferences regarding the size or location of the school. Participants expressed interest in schools in close proximity to housing and facilities with space for outdoor recreation. Below is a summary of the participants' discussion, organized by benefits and concerns as they relate to each of the three proposed options and additional considerations.

Option 1: Rebuild Separate WHCIS at Sycamore, Address Brown later

Benefits

- **Winter Hill Prioritization**: One parent advocated for addressing the Winter Hill School's needs separately from the Brown School, citing its unique programming. The parent specifically hoped the new space would enhance their existing educational programs.

- **Walkable Schools:** One parent noted that the current locations of the buildings are close to families and therefore easy to travel to.

Considerations

- **Outdoor Space:** Participants wanted to ensure that the school building(s) have adequate space for outdoor recreation.

Options 2 & 3: Rebuild at Sycamore or Trum with Capacity for Brown

Benefits

- **School Events**: One participant noted that a larger school building could host school-wide and community events.

Concerns

- **Programming:** One participant questioned whether a large building would be the appropriate location for the AIM program.

Considerations

- **Transportation:** Participants hoped that the school building(s) would be easy to travel to by walking or taking the bus.

Appendix A: Focus Group Protocol

Focus Group Agenda

0:00 - 0:10: Welcome and Preface

- Introduce City and Facilitation Team
- Overview Process and Purpose of Focus Groups
- Review the 3 Options Under Consideration

0:10 - 0:20: Introductions and Ice Breaker

- Review Groundrules for discussion
    - Step up, step back so we can hear from everyone
    - Be respectful of different perspectives
    - Maintain Confidentiality
    - Be constructive and stay on topic

- Group Introductions
    - Your Name
    - Your connection to the schools/neighborhoods (if any)

0:20 - 0:35: QUESTION 1: How do you feel about tradeoffs in school size? Should the City address both schools now, or defer Brown renovation until later? What factors influence your thinking?

Methodology:

- Go around, invite each person to share their thoughts in 1-2 minutes
- Ask follow up questions to get at tradeoffs and the reasons for their views
- Invite conversation between participants, within the allotted time

0:35 - 0:50: QUESTION 2: How do you feel about using a portion of Trum Field for a new school, and moving field space elsewhere in City.

Methodology:

- Popcorn style, invite participants to share their thoughts - ask about their relationships to Trum and why they feel as they do
- Give everyone a chance to speak before allowing someone to speak twice
- Allow conversation between participants, within the allotted time

0:50 - 1:05: QUESTION 3: What do you like about each of these options? What concerns do you have about it? How could they be made better?

Methodology:

- Review each option inviting "likes," then "concerns and suggestions"

- **Option 1:** Build a new school facility at the Sycamore Street site with capacity for Winter Hill current enrollment, plus some additional capacity. Keep the Brown School in its current location on Willow Avenue, and address that school's needs later as part of a future MSBA funding application.
- **Option 2:** Build a new school facility at the Sycamore Street site with capacity for Winter Hill and Brown enrollment, plus some additional capacity, up to approximately 900 students.
- **Option 3:** Build a new school facility at Trum Field with enough capacity for Winter Hill and Brown enrollment, plus some additional capacity, up to approximately 900 students.

1:05 - 1:20: QUESTION 4: No matter what design is selected, the City will need to pass a debt exclusion by majority vote, which will raise property taxes to cover the costs. Given this: How important is it to maximize the promised state funding share now, to build a large combined school, versus the future funding uncertainty of maintaining separate schools? How important is size and/or location of the schools versus cost of the project? Under what conditions would your neighbors (or those within your interest group) vote for a debt exclusion?

Methodology:

- Go around, invite each person to share their thoughts
- Invite conversation between participants, within the allotted time

1:20 - 1:30: Wrap up, Close

- Anything we didn't cover that you would like to add?
- Thank you so much! Your feedback helps us get the community input needed for the CAG to make the best possible recommendation.