4/12/2021 – Warrant Booklet information for 2021 Town Meeting Citizens' Petitions *(numbers are tentative)*

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to recommend that the Medfield School Committee and School Building Committee amend its proposal to the Massachusetts School Building Authority to keep Dale Street School at its current site for grades 4-5, as was implied in the 2018 Town Meeting Warrant Article, that funded the Feasibility Study, and to re-evaluate the certified enrollment projection provided in October 2018 so that it is based on actual student numbers.

This article seeks to give the citizens of Medfield a meaningful voice in deciding the location of an elementary school for the following reasons:

- When the Town voted in 2018 to fund the $1-million Feasibility Study, it was for the addition and/or renovation or replacement of Dale Street Elementary School located at 45 Adams Street implying the current grade 4-5 school would remain where it is, and not result in a long-term liability for taxpayers or the addition of yet another building to town inventory;

- No public forum was ever held on site selection prior to the School Building Committee vote, and despite a community survey and citizen letters expressing a clear preference for the Dale Street site, the SBC voted to relocate grades 4-5 to a new school at Wheelock – a location also in contrary to MSBA statute 963 CMR 2.05 stating a preference for a school location that "shall be proximate to other facilities such as libraries, museums, parks, natural resources, nature study areas and businesses, which would enhance the proposed educational program" (note: Dale Street provides easy access to all six during the school day);

- Medfield voters previously approved the purchase/donation of Wheelock land as part of concerted wellfield protection initiatives, so siting a second school in the Elm Street location is counter to Town wishes and harms environmentally sensitive contiguous open space;

- Placement of a second school on Elm Street will result in four schools located within one mile of each other making existing traffic problems worse and creating new traffic problems that didn't exist before, while also creating public safety issues for student walkers and bikers, plus increased police/fire/EMT response times; and

- A larger, more expensive school is being proposed than is necessary based on actual vs. original projected student enrollment numbers, and project costs publicized at the time the SBC voted to relocate grades 4-5 to Wheelock, did not take into account the additional expense of re-use or abandonment of Dale Street School, field replacements, infrastructure needs beyond water, and long-term traffic mitigation;

or do or act anything in relation thereto.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to establish a committee charged with creating a Medfield Town Bylaw to govern school building projects that includes a School Building Committee appointment process led by the Town Moderator in keeping with Medfield School Policy and designed to engage citizens at large.

This article seeks to provide clarity with the formation of a study committee charged with either revising the existing Permanent Planning and Building bylaw (Article IV, 10-20), or creating a new bylaw, to encompass school building projects. This clarity is needed because Medfield Public School policy states that the Town Moderator is responsible for appointing members to the School Building Committee (as was past practice with the Medfield High School and Memorial School projects), yet that was not the process with the Dale Street School project. The Permanent Building and Planning Committee bylaw does not explicitly state its school project role, nor does it specify which public body or town officer is responsible for appointing School Building Committee members to ensure diverse community representation beyond specific expertise stated,

or do or act anything in relation thereto.