

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D001	11/13/2019	Post-it	Consideration for Pedagogical Approach	Noted. Specific recommendations may be made.
D002	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Tobin is Montessori and Vassal isn't – how is this worked into classroom design	We have met with the teachers from all programs, including the Tobin, Vassal Lane and the Department of Human Services Programs, on multiple occasions to define their needs and are also drawing upon our experience in designing for Montessori programs and co-teaching models. Detailed classroom designs will be developed as the design develops.
D003	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Can the site handle the mix of programs? Can the city rethink to having all elementary and moving the other programs? Has there been any other sites studied for the new preschool?	
D004	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Strong push for city council and school department to address all the four year olds	
D005	11/13/2019	Post-it	Students should have ample space for the OT/PT therapy room	Included in the project.
D006	11/13/2019	Post-it	Why not consolidate 2 Upper Schools & consolidate 2 Elementary schools in future building / master plan. Programs would work better & pool resources.	
D007	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Has there been any thoughts on hosting programs elsewhere rather than on site? Options are not meaningfully different – just different layouts	
D008	11/13/2019	Post-it	Forecast & design for future.	Included in the project.
D009	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Spaces has a huge impact on flexibility and the ability to provide additional programs for the various students	Noted
D010	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Can lower schools be combined and upper schools be consolidated? Would it be less expensive? If it exists now than its not enough	
D011	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Has an overall master plan been considered for school organization?	
D012	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Is the preschool a new program – can preschool be at another location to help with open space	

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D013	11/13/2019	Post-it	Consider placing some programs (preschool?) elsewhere. New bldg. / field at Alewife Quad?	
D014	11/13/2019	Open Comment	It's quite a lot – where's the catch area	
D015	11/13/2019	Open Comment	How did the projected enrollment come to be, is there a document that describes such? Vassal is over capacity in some instances	
D016	11/13/2019	Open Comment	I have a question about the Vassal Lane number being 450 - based on projections?	Yes. Number is based on projected capacity
D017	11/13/2019	Post-it	All Models create "dead space" alcoves in the after- hours seems not in keeping with urban security	Noted. Designing to enhance safety is a fundamental goal of CPS and will be evaluated throughout the design process.
D018	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Will the model be accessible for further viewing whether at the city or at the school?	The model will generally be kept at the architect's office for design development, but will be present at future meetings.
D019	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Teachers haven't seen the actual design layouts, only have talked about classrooms specifically. Need more of a functional design study. Teachers and faculty need to see and review the designs prior to a final decision.	Additional meetings with teachers and staff are being scheduled. Functional design study, in detail, is the subject of design phases. The feasibility study is based on detailed layouts that will be developed with teacher and staff input.
D020	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Are there Maker Spaces and are they shared within the various schools	Yes, there are Maker Spaces with associated storage
D021	11/13/2019	Open Comment	MLK has difficult shared spaces; none of the school programs actually share the shared spaces and therefore there's not enough room	Noted
D022	11/13/2019	Post-it	Shared spaces: not enough at MLK. Provide more for after school shared spaces (Piano classes, Girl Scouts, Math Olympiad, Lego Robotics, etc.)	Noted. The space program for this campus has been informed by the use of MLK and the programming of the King Open.

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D023	11/13/2019	Post-it	FAQs. Extra Space, IE: MIT Robotics & hosting after hours space - Pedagogy & use of space multi use space - Invision Alewife report/ resilience, open space - Committed to the bike connection & shared path - Parking lot bike issues / After School programming	Noted. Will study as design develops. Envision bike path utilizes the Armory site, but this project will include bike connection from Concord Ave (at the north) to Fresh Pond Parkway (at the southwest).
D024	11/13/2019	Post-it	Extra space for After School & other programming	Noted. See item D22.
D025	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Afterschool programs fight for various spaces at MLK	Noted. See item D22.
D026	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Is there sufficient music space for the community use	Noted. See item D22.
D027	11/16/2019	Written	In this age of increased security, where exactly would students and guests enter/exit and check-in? And if there is more than one entry/exit, what is the security plan? Will each school have its own to manage? Will people be able to travel between schools once in the building? Will there be internal doors to lockdown and separate parts of the building?	Entrances are indicated on plan with arrows. In the design phase, interior control doors and electronic measures including locks and cameras, will be designed. Schools will be connected so that once inside, parents can visit, pick up and drop off students. Emergency procedures will be considered in design phase.
D028	11/13/2019	Post-it	Too much security @ MLK to some spaces	Noted
D029	11/13/2019	Post-it	Reno/Add Tobin + Preschool far apart	Noted. This will be considered in more detail if this option is selected as the preferred option.
D030	11/13/2019	Post-it	Don't see any benefit to option 1, renovating the problematic existing bldg. Why save an unloved, failing structure if it won't save \$ or offer any benefits in terms of site toxin containment? Either of the new designs seem far preferable. Love the inner courtyards of the Wings (I think) design seems like a real enhancement of the interior, offering extra light, protected outdoor space for young kids - lots of bang for the buck	Noted

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D031	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Are transitions being studied between classrooms? Why is gym on second floor? Why can't it be like MLK and have easy access to outdoors	Yes, transition times are being studied, including travel paths by age group. This is why the shared spaces are all in the middle to alleviate travel times in all schemes. Locating the gym at the second floor allows us to keep the building footprint more compact - decreasing travel time and allowing for more open space.
D032	11/13/2019	Post-it	Would make sense to move preschool to the right side of the "A" with their play space to the left of their entrance, designation the open space behind VLUS for VLUS.	Development and assignment of open space to be done in design phase.
D033	11/13/2019	Post-it	Consider noise reduction in lighting throughout the school to meet needs of students with various disability	Understood to be "visual" noise. Various sensitivities will be considered in the design phase.
D034	11/13/2019	Post-it	Like idea of not building up to consider the needs of students with special needs	Noted
D035	11/13/2019	Post-it	Can you make the older kids buildings taller and gain more open space?	A 4 story option was explored and will continue to be evaluated. The massing of the building in the three options is seeking to balance the educational needs of the various programs inside the building for access, safety, identify, space, egress, transition time, and adjacency with the need for positive and useful outdoor space.
D036	11/13/2019	Post-it	Wings #1 keep programs separated	The Wings option allows for each school to have an identity and a main entry presence, an important design principle. Shared spaces are centralized in order for each school wing to have similar access.
D037	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Can't become just one school image	Agreed and part of the design principles.
D038	11/13/2019	Post-it	This BIG SCHOOL looks like it belongs in the suburbs.	Noted
D039	11/13/2019	Post-it	Can you create overhangs in the building to give you sq. footage that then you can use for more green/ play areas?	May be part of future design phases.
D040	11/16/2019	Written	I find all three options acceptable, but somewhat prefer "Wings".	Noted

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D041	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Beyond architecture need to function better	Noted
D042	11/13/2019	Post-it	More creative designs 4 school	Noted.
D043	11/13/2019	Post-it	(Wings) I like this option best. Could you add a pass through from back to front here?	Connections between schools are anticipated. Access will be based on security requirements.
D044	11/13/2019	Post-it	(Pavilions) This opt. seems to be most complex. Its too complicated and wayfinding may be an issue.	Noted. Wayfinding experience will be based on interior organization and developed in the design phase.
D045	11/13/2019	Post-it	(Add/Reno) Location of Auditorium (central) seems to work really well in this opt.	Noted
D046	11/13/2019	Post-it	(Wings) Of all 3 options this massing seems most friendly to the neighborhood.	Noted
D047	11/13/2019	Post-it	Really appreciate the effort to re-use existing building; but VL program. seems oddly distributed	Noted
D048	11/13/2019	Post-it	What is height of first floor compared to current?	Existing Building's first floor height is 10' - 8" (floor to floor height). Wings' and Pavilions' first floor currently estimated at 14' - 0" (floor to floor)
D049	11/13/2019	Open Comment	What is the height of the first floor compared to current?	See response to item D48
D050	11/16/2019	Written	THREE-STORY PRE-SCHOOL? Are there other uses for the upper floors? Will pre-K classes be herded into elevators? Will pre-K parents park and ride elevators to drop off and pick up their kids?	The preschool is only one story on the ground floor for all options. The options show other shared programs and/or administration on the floors above.
D051	11/13/2019	Post-it	All models really cut down on eyes on the street for pedestrians crossing from concord side to vassal side	Noted
D052	11/13/2019	Post-it	How many stories will the Add / Reno be?	The current design includes 3 stories for the addition.
D053	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Lots of concern on building height and close proximity to fields	Will continue to study in the design phase. This is acknowledged and is, in part, the challenge of fitting all program on the site.
D054	11/13/2019	Open Comment	I have a question about a fourth floor and whether it was considered	See response to item D35
D055	11/13/2019	Post-it	These all look "suburban" not urban sometimes urban spaces go up.	See response to item D35

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D056	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Is the building height a constraint – why can't we go up? What is the thought process at staying at three stories	See response to item D35
D057	11/13/2019	Post-it	Trade-off for 4th story? We don't want to lose fields!	See response to item D35
D058	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Kids love escalators	Noted. Elevators require close supervision of small children, which is operationally challenging.
D059	11/13/2019	Post-it	Kids love Escalators	See response to item D58
D060	11/13/2019	Post-it	Buildings need to go up we need field space	See response to item D35
D061	11/13/2019	Post-it	Why not go higher to maximize ground, playground & open space	See response to item D35
D062	11/15/2019	Written	1. The architects seemed to think that it was essential to give each school it's own identity and entrance. This priority should be reevaluated . This should NOT be a priority at the cost of giving up much potential shared drop-off, parking and entry real estate at the cost of eliminated open space to fulfill this imagined requirement. • The current schools share and entrance and this works out much better for me as a parent who has had kids in both the Tobin and the Vassal Lane schools. The schools don't start at the same time. A shared entrance works better for me as a parent. • A shared entrance and limiting public entries to the school is safer for the students and the staff. • Speaking to the principals of the to two schools, they both agreed that a shared entrance and drop-off is preferred. Please consider sharing these resources to save more open space on the sight.	The final design will balance the need for identity with shared drop-off for families such as yours.
D063	11/15/2019	Written	2. The administrative office should be closer together to facilitate close coordination between the school's administrative staff.	Noted

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D064	11/15/2019	Written	3. I have a slight preference for the 3rd scheme of Pavilions because of the reduced building frontage on Vassal Lane and because of the enclosed courtyards but feel that the building massing scheme that facilitates energy conservation should be prioritized.	Noted
D065	11/13/2019	Written	<p>I hope that we are planning for some "vocational education" opportunities for kids in the middle schools. I came in a little late but in thinking out of the box a bit, I'm wondering if one of the gyms can support "gymnastics" given that we will be losing MIT availability. I think we can be more creative than putting two gyms with basketball courts when our young girls need better opportunities. Can Perkins and Eastman present some alternatives.</p> <p>The Superintendent and his leadership team need to take a close look at the middle school design and decide whether there is an opportunity to rethink how our middle school system is functioning and whether it can be improved. We might want to add another school to be a part of the upper school design (only two go to Vassal school now) that would create more diversity there, etc. In other words this is a one time opportunity to improve on educational issues we might be facing. The school committee needs to weight in on the educational design. From a planning standpoint there is going to be a real parking issue at the Kennedy/Longfellow school given they lost available parking at the Bus lot that no longer exists. This is creating a lot of anxiety at the school and needs to get resolved sooner than later.</p>	

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D066	11/16/2019	Written	I live a block from the Tobin and enjoyed seeing the current schematic designs for the new schools. I wondered if the height of the buildings could be increased to four stories to increase open spaces for additional playing fields? I imagine there might be a zoning restriction limiting height, but I think a taller building in that location would not significantly impact the feel of the adjacent houses. Overall, the site plan seemed overly constrained for bus lanes and playing fields and an additional story might open up the overall site.	See response to D35
D067	11/25/2019	Written	Explain the programmatic choices more fully since the size and composition of the student & adult populations are driving the design choices. How much of this space is for future growth? What other site options were or could be considered for some of the additional programs being proposed for this site? Who made the program decision and who can potentially change it (was School Committee consulted?)	
D068	11/25/2019	Written	How many adults would be on campus? (higher ratio of student:teachers for younger and special needs/ELL students)	
D069	11/25/2019	Written	Is the new Human Services preschool an early ed center for the entire city (complex logistics in a part of the city choked by traffic)?	
D070	11/25/2019	Written	How would an Upper School of 450 students meet the goals of the Innovation Agenda to create small school communities? This makes VLUS much larger than the other 3 Upper Schools (it's already slightly larger than they are). How does this affect enrollment in its 3 feeder schools?	

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D071	11/25/2019	Written	How would community facilities be used after regular school hours and on weekends? Which spaces are being designed for multi-purpose (even adult) use?	The gymnasiums, cafeterias, auditorium, and Professional Development Center are being considered for community use after hours and on weekends by both children and adults. The Professional Development Center is currently intended to be a multi-purpose space.
D072	11/25/2019	Written	Show a design with 4 floors on some of the buildings, placing the height on the Parkway/Armory side of the lot. We need to see a comparison and the impact on open space.	The design team will further investigate this possibility, considering both community and educational needs.
D073	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	How many adults / staff will be on campus	
D074	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	Is the cafeteria one space?	Dining consists of one large kitchen to support multiple, age appropriate seating areas
D075	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	Separate the cafeteria and PE spaces so that scheduling is easier	Noted.
D076	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	Separate the auditorium and dining spaces	Noted. It is our understanding that this is for acoustical reasons and will be considered as the design progresses.
D077	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	Music should be near the auditorium and on the same floor	Noted.
D078	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	Where are the District Science and storage spaces going	District Science (supplies) and District Storage are currently proposed to be in the basement.
D079	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	The Wings option has the gyms above the preschool - what about acoustics?	The design team has successfully designed schools with a gym above classrooms, keeping noise separated, in the past.
D080	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	Cafeteria should be separate from hallways - not a throughway	Noted
D081	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	First Levels - the younger children - should have outdoor spaces per classroom	Noted. This is the current intent.
D082	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	King has access issues from preschool to the rest of the school where teachers are getting locked between doors and have to call security. This building needs distinct wings and security	Noted

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D083	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	First floor shouldn't have lots of wasted space, no massive hallways, would rather have larger classrooms	Noted
D084	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	Are there student and staff teaching kitchens	There is a teaching kitchen for students currently in the program.
D085	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	If we are self contained schools, why are there still shared spaces	It is not feasible for a separate auditorium, but otherwise there are two gyms, and the dining seating is age appropriate
D086	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	Library isn't close to the students, especially the younger children - what about separate library spaces	Noted.
D087	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	Explain the shared spaces further	This includes the dining, gymnasiums, auditorium and Learning Commons
D088	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	Is there an opportunity for a smaller auditorium	Professional development space could also be used for smaller presentations or performances
D089	11/26/2019	Written	What are the guiding principals for designing the school	Guiding principles are in the community meeting presentation. Refer to slides 11-14
D090	11/26/2019	Written	The student population number will double; why are centralized programs being squeezed onto the lot in these overlarge sprawling new buildings? It seems like the overpacking of new programs is being done without regard to site, traffic or use of compact efficient design.	
D091	11/26/2019	Written	What are the numbers of additional staff projected?	

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D092	12/2/2019	Written	<p>To begin, of the three designs presented, let me just say that I personally prefer Option #2 (the so-called “Wings” design) for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has the smallest building footprint (though it could and should be reduced further). • It does a better job of combining open space into fewer, larger spaces (the “Pavilions” design chops up the open space into many tiny and disparate spaces). • It does a better job of separating vehicle traffic from potential pedestrian routes (though the amount of surface parking should be reduced further, perhaps through increased underground garage space and/or drop-offs internal to the garage to eliminate some surface drop-off areas). • It provides a better location for the playing fields next to the mature oaks along Vassal Lane rather than abutting the noisy parkway and neighboring car repair facilities. • It preserves a tot lot and playground onsite (which, surprisingly, Option #1 does not). • It does the best job of making use of solar exposure to the south. 	Noted

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D093	12/2/2019	Written	I would also like to see a clear, straight, well-lighted connection between Concord Avenue and Vassal Lane/Fresh Pond Reservation as repeatedly mentioned in the just released Envision Alewife Master Plan. This path would ideally not need to meander excessively in order to avoid vehicular areas. A passageway through the building itself would be ideal, as it would allow better connections across the site rather than forcing pedestrians to walk all the way around the building as at present. Such a direct, external North-South passthrough between the preschool and Tobin wings of the building would best connect Concord Avenue and Vassal Lane, as well as fulfill the request for a pedestrian corridor from Fern Street to the parkway crossing at Vassal Lane as repeatedly requested in the Alewife Plan.	See response to T46. Any interior solution would need to balance school safety and security with community needs.
D094	12/6/2019	Written	Overall, I have concerns about doubling the size of this school campus from 600 students to 1200 students. Before we agree to double the number of students on this site, we need to fully understand the future and the capacity of the two swing spaces that have been utilized for close to a decade while the Cambridge Street and Putnam Avenue campuses have been under construction. The Longfellow School has served as an elementary school swing space for Dr. M.L.K Jr. and King Open Schools, and the Kennedy-Longfellow School has served as an Upper School swing space for PAUS and CSUS. Once the Tobin/VLUS campus is complete, what is the future and what is the capacity for these swing spaces?	

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D095	12/6/2019	Written	<p>Even if we fully renovate an elementary school, such as the Graham and Parks, we would not use both swing spaces. As discussed during the Universal Pre-K conversation on Monday evening, could the Longfellow School serve as the pre-school site that is being planned for the Tobin site? There are a great many factors that I don't feel confident we have the answers to at this time, and I would urge the City and the Schools to do that facilities inventory and provide us with the information so we can feel confident with a decision.</p>	
D096	12/6/2019	Written	<p>It was stated Monday evening, that the Cambridge Street and Putnam Avenue Upper Schools were built without significant space to grow, particularly in the middle schools. This is a considerable problem and a mistake not to be made again. We should be planning for *some* growth so that we can remove the unfair "caps" in 5th grade in the VLUS feeder schools to ensure socio-economic equity among the Upper Schools. However, I am concerned about adding the bulk of the middle school population growth into one school and planning to increase the school size by 50% (300 students to 450). The Vassal Lane Upper School is already the largest in the district and houses the entire 6-8th grade SEI population as well as several other complex programs. Given the complexity of this Upper School already, it seems unwise to plan for all middle school growth in this proposed building.</p>	
D097	11/25/2019	Written	<p>Re-open conversation with the state about using (leasing) a portion of the Armory lot for parking. Who do we need to talk to? Could a state rep or senator help us? It could be accessed from the Vassal Lane side if they don't want to share their curb cut on Concord.</p>	

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D098	12/8/2019	Written	Examining the three schemes proposed by the architects, using the School Department's program as their base, the impression of too much mass in relation the open space is unavoidable. The current FAR is at 0.315, which is already over the 0.25 allowed (presumably a Special Permit was given for the 1971 construction). The proposed schemes raise the FARs to roughly 0.7, 0.75 and 0.8, more than double the existing. A Special Permit would allow it to go up to 1.25, but at a complete loss of community open space.	
D099	12/14/2019	Written	The plan to have such a large population and program density on this site, on the far west edge of the city, does not seem to take into account the distance that many students and families will need to travel, nor the aforementioned gridlock. Putting some of these programs in other sites throughout the city would seem to be a more sustainable and equitable option for the city's residents. In Alana Mallon's letter of 12/3/19, she suggests some options for locating the preschool program in other, more central locations. These and other options should be explored further before jumping to final plans. Additionally, the current plans do not seem to align with the goals of Envision Cambridge or the Innovation Agenda, which were developed to help the city plan for growth thoughtfully. (cont. O36)	

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D100	12/15/2019	Written	I am writing to you in regards to the proposed design options for the new TM/VLUS project. I am a licensed architect in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Chief Academic Officer of a local innovation school, a founding former board member of Montessori preschool and the parent of a Tobin first grade student. I have read and heard many comments and concerns about the anticipated size of the new school and am well aware of the expanding needs for expanded quality programs within our community. That said, an extensive amount of research indicates that there may be many benefits from smaller learning communities and while I recognize that rethinking the entire structure of the district is not feasible, I strongly believe that we can offer many of the benefits of a smaller school environment through thoughtful design and architectural intervention. (cont. D101)	
D101	12/15/2019	Written	To that effect, while I lean in my preference for Proposed Design 3: Pavilions, I have some general concerns and comments about the proposed designs and their potential as the process moves into a clearly defined schematic design and design development phase. I support the general locations of the three major programs, especially the more residential facing aspect of Tobin and the sheltered location of the Preschool. That said, I have some concern that the design driven by the FAR will dramatically change both the quality of the community and the benefits of the current design specific to a Montessorri education. (cont. D102)	

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D102	12/15/2019	Written	<p>Consider unifying the programs to better retain and enhance multi-age interaction that is a hallmark of Montessorri pedagogy. This could be achieved by distributing preschool classrooms on the lower levels (see point 2), with lower and upper elementary classrooms on the 2nd and 3rd levels. The pavilion theme can extend to the interior though atriums to offer visual and circulatory communication across the school. This would offer the opportunity to have more integrated "common" use spaces that would more naturally connect to all Tobin Classrooms and be a natural extension of a more integrated age community. This also addresses another concern I have with this option which is the heavy centralization of the common spaces. (cont. D103)</p>	
D103	12/15/2019	Written	<p>Consider dramatically rethinking the extent of direct outdoor access. The current building offers direct access to both private and shared outdoor space for virtually every class at Tobin. Beyond being vital for Montessori classes, there is ample evidence to suggested more and varied outdoor time is beneficial to children in countless ways. In some ways I would love to see a design option retaining the current building but renovating it so that the preschool remains in the East wing with ample attention paid to improving the outdoor spaces directly adjacent to the classrooms. I think the protected quality of an outdoor space for each classroom is amazing, as is the angled quality and variation of each room in the current location, and these would be great to preserve. (cont. D104)</p>	

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D104	12/15/2019	Written	<p>There are qualities of Mont. education that are different than other types of education and they should be expressed on the site as well as in the building design. In any case, a new building could achieve this access in many ways, perhaps with a half story split (a level 1A, 1B) providing direct outdoor access to all preschool classrooms and exterior stair access to every classroom in the elementary school. As mentioned above, thoughtful use of external pavilions, internal pavilions, and atrium spaces could connect all parts of the school to the outside and provide for a fully integrated community that matches the close-knit qualities at Tobin now, regardless of the expanded size. We also have the opportunity to rethink the culture of the VLUS (and middle schools in general) through a thoughtful integration with Tobin. (cont. O37)</p>	
D105	12/17/2019	Written	<p>I believe we should invest in education and a future. With that said, I feel the issues are 1. size of the expanded school, and 2. open space/playfields. Ideally, I think the size should be halved. I know that will not happen. I hope, however, some of the specific proposals to use other city spaces will be considered in an effort to reduce the size of the school. (cont. P62)</p>	

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D106	12/15/2019	Written	<p>Along with finding out about the green space field loss... we are told that the School has an additional Pre-k school attached which is separate from the Tobin. This was another surprise. The project team then inferred that the school committee, city council, and teachers were a part of the process. This came as a shock to some city council, and school Committee members who were there. This was also the first look at the school from the teachers. They were brought in to give input as to what they wanted in their classrooms, but no the flow of the rooms or the outside fields which the children utilize. Nothing about the building was included. We are paying a lot of money to these architects, and project managers! We should see more options to include our green fields, and sport fields! We are not a cookie cutter community.. we have to plan outside the box on this. This should have planned with more input on all accounts! We were not given any drawings of the inside of any of these building or why they need so much space. We need full compliment drawings so more input could be taken in. (cont. O47)</p>	

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D107	12/19/2019	Written	<p>The site schemes generally show what seems to be a reduction on open/play/playground/green space from existing conditions. I was under the impression that the youngest children's program dictates a lot of this "sprawl" due to needing the children on the ground level, whereas older kids are better at dealing with facilities on the upper floor. I would urge consideration be made to consider a change in the design program to reduce this part of the program or relocate that age group as we may be trying to do too much on one site. While the above point is clearly a design consideration, it is program driven, so I do not know if it is feasible to amend the schools and programs being proposed to be brought to Tobin (cont. T68)</p>	
D108	12/30/2019	Written	<p>As concerned citizens and a family with a child with significant special needs, we have specific concerns regarding the adequacy of the proposed designs in terms of staffing and space needs associated with the significant increase in the population of students with higher needs. Where "typical" classrooms might have one to two dedicated teachers and a possible classroom aid, the population of students in the substantially separate classrooms and across some immersion and younger classrooms require very high teacher to student ratios and many more on-site therapists. Not only are these students in need of a higher level staff support they also require more physical space for the one-on-one services separate from classroom teaching and interventions. More space is needed for this population in the design of the new school, in the design of the classrooms and across all of the outdoor play spaces. (cont. T76)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D109	1/2/2020	Written	<p>I hope there will be opportunity for this project to be placed within a citywide context and to benefit from additional community input. On December 2, I attended the back-to-back roundtable meetings on the Tobin/VLUS project and the Universal Pre-Kindergarten report. The widely shared goals of expanding Pre-K and providing a new school building were clear. The glaring issue that surfaced for me was the need to place the Tobin/VLUS project aims within the broader goals for Cambridge Public Schools and City Department of Human Services programs and facilities in the next 10-20 years.</p> <p>I am heartened that important conversations are already underway. I understand that the Superintendent's team and Assistant City Manager for Human Services are partnering closely. I find it promising that the school district and City are discussing a facilities study that would build upon the data from 2006 as well as enrollment projects from the UMass Donahue Institute. (cont. D110)</p>	
D110	1/2/2020	Written	<p>We are so fortunate to have the resources to provide our students and teachers with wonderful learning environments. Let us do so in a manner that will allow us to strategically allocate resources across the city in an equitable way, one that reflects both future programmatic and related facility needs. (cont. P80)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D111	1/13/2020	Written	Writing as abutters, we thank you for meeting last week with the neighbors of Callanan Park and Tobin School regarding the city's proposal to rebuild the school. It became evident that the contextual information around the proposed programming for the reconstruction of the Tobin/VLUS is not generally known within the community. Sharing this information would help the neighbors understand the city's proposals for the site as well as be able to offer viable alternatives to what the city — both the School Department and the Department of Human Service Program — is proposing. (cont. D112)	
D112	1/13/2020	Written	It is becoming clear that the site will experience a 12-hour program day, between early teacher arrival, early arrival of children, regular school drop-off and pick-up, and the end of after school programs. (cont. D113)	
D113	1/13/2020	Written	The city has not provided any details about the staffing that will accompany this 12-hour program day. o Please provide an estimate of all staff that will be on site, including part-time and after-school staff. (cont. T85)	
D114	1/13/2020	Written	We are still confused about the total number of pre-K classrooms and number of pre-K students that city is proposing to house at the site. o Please provide a complete breakdown of all pre-K programs, number of classrooms and enrollment, that the city is proposing at the site. o In addition, please clarify whether this is a pre-K or a JK program and the ages of the children in these programs. (cont. D115)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D115	1/13/2020	Written	<p>What is the current number and distribution of DHSP pre-K classrooms around the city?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o This includes classrooms located in schools and those in non-school buildings. (cont. D116) 	
D116	1/13/2020	Written	<p>What is need for DHSP pre-K classrooms across the city?</p> <p>Providing specific information about the locations and populations not served currently is crucial to our understanding and identifying possible viable alternatives to placing all of the identified need at the Callanan Park/Tobin site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Has the city looked at alternative sites for at least part of the program? What were these sites and why were they not chosen? (cont. O57) 	
D117	1/14/2020	Written	<p>As a parent of two children at Tobin, I value Tobin's teaching staff over any feature of the building, grounds or its location. My biggest concern is retaining wonderful staff. To that end, a team of parents asked teachers what would be most helpful as you consider your final design. These items top the list: (cont. T86)</p>	
D118	1/14/2020	Written	<p>2. Large classrooms (Imperative for the Montessori philosophy)</p> <p>3. Storage for classrooms (Closets) (cont. D119)</p>	
D119	1/14/2020	Written	<p>4. Separate cafeterias (Large open spaces with staggered lunch times add emotional stress of a loud environment and time-stress on an already crowded schedule.) (cont. S29)</p>	
D120	1/14/2020	Written	<p>We don't need informal open spaces in the hallway that can function as improvisational gathering spaces. We need functionality and a quiet learning environment. (cont. O63)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D121	1/14/2020	Written	<p>I speak as one of the teachers at Tobin Montessori School. I have to admit, I feel blindsided. The approach that was taken during this process was very inclusive and I truly felt that our needs and desires for an optimal Montessori learning space was being heard. We are already only 1 of the 4 elementary schools in the district that is asked to share our space with a middle school population. We were only recently informed that the new school will require sharing with even more programs in the same space This is disheartening. Sharing space is a wonderful way to save money and resources. It also allows for wonderful cross program student experiences. The struggle, though, is that this limits a number of things that we are able to do in our program. The most impactful is the limit it puts upon our schedule flexibility. A Montessori program requires a 3 hour uninterrupted work period. This is not possible currently, for two of our levels due to the fact that we share our cafeteria with the middle school. I can't help think that additional programs means more sharing of space. I am writing to strongly encourage that whatever design is decided upon that it include a cafeteria that is separate from the other programs. (cont. T87)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D122	1/14/2020	Written	<p>I am writing to support the expansion of the preschool program in Cambridge through the Tobin School/VLUS project. I am the parent of a current 2.5 year old, so I understand that this project won't benefit me personally, but as someone who has been going through the process of trying to secure a preschool spot for my daughter, I can speak to the unbelievable stress the limited number of preschool spots creates for parents. I was just recently saying to fellow parents that my household is in a very fortunate position. We are well educated and well resourced and still, for us, the process of finding a preschool that met our needs (geographical, financial, and in terms of the hours it serves) felt nearly insurmountable. I can't imagine how much more daunting it would be for someone with fewer means/options than we have. For us, the public preschool program was by the far the best option for every variable. We were overjoyed (massive understatement) when our daughter was offered a spot in the DHSP program. It has relieved an unbelievable amount of stress for our household. The only hard part is that there are so few spots available and most of our daughter's friends were not so lucky. (cont. D123)</p>	
D123	1/14/2020	Written	<p>Living in Cambridge is wonderful but it does come with added expenses and challenges. One of the main issues is the exorbitant cost of the child care options available. Providing additional preschool spots across the city would make an enormous difference in the lives of citizens with young children and would greatly benefit the young children who would get to take advantage of such an amazing early education experience. (cont. T88)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D124	1/14/2020	Written	<p>I am writing in support of the Tobin School/VLUS expansion. Cambridge has a unique opportunity in this moment: to build a beautiful, net-zero school while also moving forward in our quest for universal preschool. This is a critical matter of equity in our city, and we should not turn away from it. My daughter is nearly 3 and is currently on the waitlist for both the CPS and DHSP programs. Because of her birthday, she misses the JK cutoff by two weeks, leaving us with two years of preschool to account for. She won't benefit from the additional seats an expanded Tobin would provide. But I'm thinking about the families in my community whose lives could be changed by having greater access to free or affordable preschool choices. We know that high-quality early education is vital to a child's long-term academic success. We know that many children start their K-12 years already behind their peers and never get caught up—and high-quality ECE is a key piece of solving that problem. As a city, we have been discussing this issue for years. And yet we still have many families who are unable to access preschool opportunities for their own children, through the luck of their birthdays or lottery numbers. As I'm sure you know, private options in the area are simply out of reach for many families. The city has an extraordinary opportunity right now to move closer to equal educational access, and we should take it. (cont. T89)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D125	1/14/2020	Written	<p>We write in support of the Tobin School/VLUS project. Cambridge has a unique opportunity in this moment: to not only build a net-zero school, but also to address increasing enrollment in our public schools and move us forward in our quest for universal preschool. This is a critical matter of equity in our city, and we should not turn away from it. We are thinking about the families in our community whose lives would be changed by having greater access to free or affordable preschool choices-- including perhaps our own. We know that high-quality early education is vital to a child's long-term academic success. As a city, we have been discussing this issue for years. And yet we still have many families who are unable to access those opportunities for their own children, through the luck of their birthdays or lottery numbers. As we are sure you know, private preschool options in the area are simply out of reach for many families. We are preparing to welcome twins into our family and find ourselves completely overwhelmed as we learn the cost of care for two children at once. We now have a great opportunity to move the City closer to truly providing equal educational opportunity, and we should take it. (cont. T90)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D126	1/14/2020	Written	<p>I am writing in support of the Tobin School/VLUS project. Cambridge has a unique opportunity in this moment: to not only build a net-zero school, but also to address increasing enrollment in our public schools and move us forward in our quest for universal preschool. This is a critical matter of equity in our city, and we should not turn away from it. As the parent of a young child who will not benefit from the additional preschool seats this new school will provide, I'm thinking about the families in my community whose lives would be changed by having greater access to free or affordable preschool choices. Me and my husband grew up in Cambridge all of our lives, graduated from Cambridge Rindge and Latin and both work for the City of Cambridge, dedicating our lives to serving the youth of Cambridge, and we got waitlisted on getting into the Department of Human Services Preschool Programs. We are devastated. We know that high-quality early education is vital to a child's long-term academic success. As a city, we have been discussing this issue for years. And yet, like us, we still have many families who are unable to access those opportunities for their own children. As I'm sure you know, private preschool options in the area are simply out of reach for us and many families. We now have a great opportunity to move us closer to truly providing equal educational opportunity in this city, and we should take it. (cont. T91)</p>	
D127	1/14/2020	Written	<p>As Cambridge parents, we wanted to write in an express our support for additional preschool seats at Tobin. (cont. D128)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D128	1/14/2020	Written	We are writing in support of the Tobin School/VLUS project. Cambridge has a unique opportunity in this moment: to not only build a net-zero school, but also to address increasing enrollment in our public schools and move us forward in our quest for universal preschool. This is a critical matter of equity in our city, and we should not turn away from it. (cont. D129)	
D129	1/14/2020	Written	As parents of a young child who will not benefit from the additional preschool seats this new school will provide, we're thinking about families in our community whose lives would be changed by having greater access to free or affordable preschool choices. We know that high-quality early education is vital to a child's long-term academic success. As a city, we have been discussing this issue for years. And yet we still have many families who are unable to access those opportunities for their own children, through the luck of their birthdays or lottery numbers. We're sure you are aware that private preschool options in the area are simply out of reach for many families. The community now has a great opportunity to move ourselves closer to truly providing equal educational opportunity in this city, and we should take it. (cont. T92)	
D130	1/14/2020	Written	2. Separation of programs - I think it's important to keep each school as separate as possible. It is difficult to provide feedback on the exterior without understanding how the interior schools would look and function. How would students and teachers get from each distinct school to the shared spaces and how long will it take? Would pre-schoolers and middle schoolers share hallways at certain times (best to prevent this as much as possible)? (cont. D131)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D131	1/14/2020	Written	3. Classroom size - Classrooms in the new school need to be as big as the ones Tobin currently has with closets for storing necessary Montessori materials. (cont. S30)	
D132	1/14/2020	Written	I have also been informed that teachers do not have appropriate staff bathrooms in our current school. This is a necessity and should be planned for in the new space. In addition, there should be separate space for meetings and an area in which teachers can have their own printer/copier/scanner/laminator separate from the main office. (cont. D133)	
D133	1/14/2020	Written	At the last community meeting, a parent from one of the newly renovated schools in Cambridge voiced her frustration with the use (or lack thereof) of the new space. She described large, beautiful hallways that had no other purpose and could have been used towards classroom space. It is imperative that we utilize every inch of the new space in a productive, efficient way. Furthermore, the Montessori model utilizes classroom space in a very different way from traditional classrooms. Tobin Montessori teachers and staff need to be consulted by the planners in order for the new space to be effective for the Montessori model. (cont. D134)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D134	1/14/2020	Written	Finally, it is my understanding that there will be a lot of shared community space between the schools/programs. If this is so, separate entrances/exits need to exist to keep older, middle school aged kids apart from the Tobin children (we have kids as young as 3 YRO in our school!). If there is shared space between all of the programs, that space needs to be centralized for all programs. Accessible food lines for smaller children are also needed in the cafeteria due to the numerous younger children that attend our school and are expected to go through the lunch line unassisted as the older kids do.	
D135	1/14/2020	Written	I also think we need to be sure to protect each school as a stand-alone unit. The Tobin should have a separate building/entrance from VLUS, and the preschool. (cont. T98)	
D136	1/15/2020	Written	Access to quality and affordable preschool is so important, for all of our city. It's not every day that our city has a strategic opportunity to build greater equity in our education system and to meet the needs of Cambridge families by expanding much needed access to free and affordable quality preschool. I know you're all well aware of the shortage of daycares/preschools in our area, as well as the lack of affordability and quality. This won't fully solve this challenge, but it would be a big step in the right direction. I strongly encourage you to support this important effort.	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D137	1/15/2020	Written	<p>I am writing in support of the Tobin School/VLUS project. Cambridge has a unique opportunity in this moment: to not only build a net-zero school, but also to address increasing enrollment in our public schools and move us forward in our quest for universal preschool. This is a critical matter of equity in our city, and we should not turn away from it. As the parent of a 7 month old baby, I'm considering my options for affordable preschool choices. While I would love to stay in the wonderful community of Cambridge, I'm not sure as a single-income household that we'll be able to do so if there aren't more affordable options. This expansion would be life changing for many families in the Cambridge community, and allow for families like mine to not move to another more affordable city. We know that high-quality early education is vital to a child's long-term academic success. As a city, we have been discussing this issue for years. And yet we still have many families who are unable to access those opportunities for their own children, through the luck of their birthdays or lottery numbers. As I'm sure you know, private preschool options in the area are simply out of reach for many families. We now have a great opportunity to move us closer to truly providing equal educational opportunity in this city, and we should take it. (cont. T99)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D138	1/15/2020	Written	I am writing to give feedback on the design plans for the upcoming Tobin/VLUS building project. As a new parent (child is in her 2nd year at Tobin) I am extremely grateful and appreciative of the Tobin Montissorie education and the opportunities is has provided our daughter and our home from the connections made, the quality of education and the immersiveness of the teaching staff. I'm happy to see a renovation project, but am extremely dismayed if it comes at the cost of affecting our teachers and staff who are a large part of what makes Tobin so impactful. I spoke with other parents and teachers as what would be most helpful in feedback for the design that would ultimately affect their teaching capabilities and thus our children. (cont. T100)	
D139	1/15/2020	Written	2) Enough adult bathrooms. (cont. D140)	
D140	1/15/2020	Written	3) Separate cafeteria for the Tobin Montissorie - having such younger children exposed to the volumes of bigger kids is a stressful situation for the little ones especially as they need more assistance maneuvering and using the newly learned life skills. (cont. P87)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D141	1/15/2020	Written	<p>3. Expanding the publicly funded and subsidized preschool slots available in Cambridge by adding capacity at the school.</p> <p>Although I got this template from my neighbor and fellow advocate Kate McGovern, my situation is a bit different. My daughter was born on 4/4/17. When I first heard about the fact that pre-K in Cambridge is only available to children born before 4/1, I was shocked and outraged. Although my husband and I both graduated from MIT with advanced degrees and have a solid employment history, having a child rocked our budget and rocked my career. The same VC-backed agritech and biotech companies who had wooed me pre-kids turned cold and brutal as soon as work-life balance entered the equation. I found myself quitting two jobs in the span of three years following bullying and belittlement from leadership, one while pregnant and one with a toddler, and I have been unable to work for the past 9 months. (cont. D142)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
D142	1/15/2020	Written	<p>When I opened the envelope and discovered that my soon to be 3-year-old daughter had landed a spot at Tobin Montessori for fall 2020, I almost fainted. All I could think about was what a relief it would be to save \$20-\$30K per year on preschool. Although I believe this school is the best option for our family, it makes me sick to my stomach to think of depriving another child of the chance to attend preschool at all by taking this spot. I am well aware that there are many families who are unable to access preschool for their children, through the luck of their birthdays or lottery numbers. I hope that in the future, this is not a choice that families will have to make, and that all will have access to public preschool. I hope that any opportunity to add preschool seats during this renovation will be thoroughly reviewed and considered. (cont. C21)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P01	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Envision Alewife report: the current proposals show conflicts between pedestrians and cars. Our own local zoning requires a 5.5 acres – none of the options currently make it.	To the greatest extent possible, the preferred option will address the connections established in the Envision Alewife report. The City is formulating a response to Article 97. Current concepts have between 5.2 - 5.4 acres of Open Space and we will continue to look at options to increase Open Space as the design progresses.
P02	11/13/2019	Post-it	Need 2 look at entire Community not just Tobin School design 4 need to increase green space and fields.	The design team is modifying the proposed options to allow for separated fields.
P03	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Not meeting open space requirements on a basic level	See response to item P01
P04	11/13/2019	Post-it	As a Tobin parent, I see a lot of pavement/roads and not enough greenery/ fields	The layout of roadways and parking lots start to consider distributing the traffic and avoid long term high traffic periods. Efforts to develop the remaining open space with inviting greenery and play space are being made and will be the subject of the design phase.
P05	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Children are lucky to even get any open space	Noted. Access to outdoors and adequate play space is essential to childhood development.
P06	11/13/2019	Post-it	Down green space by 1.5 acres is ridiculous!	See response to item P01
P07	11/16/2019	Written	USE RESTRICTIONS ON CALLAHAN FIELD LAND? Depending on how this land was acquired, there might be deed restrictions by a donor. That possibility must have been considered and ruled out, right?	No donor restrictuion on deed. Restructions are based on state grant funding for park renovations
P08	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Sad to see all the baseball fields go – combining fields doesn't work – especially soccer and baseball. There is open space and parks close by. Building a good school is extremely valuable	Noted The design team is modifying the proposed options to allow for separated fields.
P09	11/13/2019	Open Comment	All public green space are overcrowded – and sports are being displaced. Field availability is fought for and teams are getting kicked out - especially girls teams	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P10	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Fields are also used by community not just the schools – community voice has to be pushed forward. Public parks are overpopulated and overbooked, and now more fields are proposed to being removed for the new school.	
P11	11/13/2019	Post-it	Baseball diamond shares space with soccer field thus eliminates outfield fence NO HOMES RUNS. Projects attempted placing 20 lbs. of manure in a 5 lb. bag.	See response to item P02
P12	11/13/2019	Post-it	Little League - Central Mtg Place - 3 games @ once - we only allow 1 field people will miss it	Little League is moving to Glacken Field. New facilities are being constructed there.
P13	11/13/2019	Post-it	We have 3 baseball fields now, in the designs show we'll have 1 shared space for baseball & soccer vs. 3 existing baseball fields today!	Noted
P14	11/13/2019	Post-it	Who would move the baseball fence for Soccer? That assumption is not reasonable.	No outfield fence is intended.
P15	11/13/2019	Post-it	We currently have 3 baseball fields, we are only maintaining 1 w/ the new designs we need at least what we have now.	With the increase in enrollment and school programs, the facility will have to increase in size in order to accommodate. All three options show an opportunity for a combination field and enough open space to fulfil the City requirements Two little league fields are being constructed at Glacken Field
P16	11/13/2019	Post-it	Currently there is 1 ball field @ Glacken and 3 at Tobin. (4 total) New project means 2 fields at Glacken and 1 at Tobin (3 total) Current project eliminates 1 ballfield in City of Cambridge	Correct.
P17	11/13/2019	Post-it	The final plan needs to include at least 1 proper baseball field. There is a robust baseball league community. That should remain!	See response to item P02

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P18	11/16/2019	Written	<p>CALLAHAN FIELD USAGE BY COMMUNITY: Compile and/or review current users of the field, by 1) time of year, 2) time of day, 3) part of field, and 4) user name and status. -- My impression is that at most one or two baseball diamonds are used 1) only in the spring and summer, 2) most likely in the evenings under lights, 3) in the two diamonds along Concord Avenue, 4) by adult baseball and softball leagues with or without uniforms. The separate basketball court would not change. Callahan shows no official soccer fields. However, adult (primarily ethnic?) soccer teams have other venues including Danehy Park, Lusitania Field (?), and any others existing or planned in East Cambridge (?). -- At the pro level, baseball is losing spectators, and soccer hasn't gained large attendance or audiences yet. But soccer for kids is great for lots of running and team strategy, whereas baseball is individualistic and involves lots of waiting around. -- From this analysis, you should be able to answer the question whether the one overlapping diamond/soccer field in each option is sufficient for current community demand. It should be lighted enough to be useful for either. -- The three options differ in the community perception of availability. "Renovation/addition" tends to wall it off by buildings and privatize it. The others are more open to the community, in similar locations, with closer access to on-site parking.</p>	
P19	11/13/2019	Post-it	I feel the combo soccer / baseball field won't work / be nearly as useful as hoped. Do one really well. Not two poorly.	See response to item P02
P20	11/13/2019	Post-it	Full size Soccer Field	The soccer field shown is sized for U-12 and under.

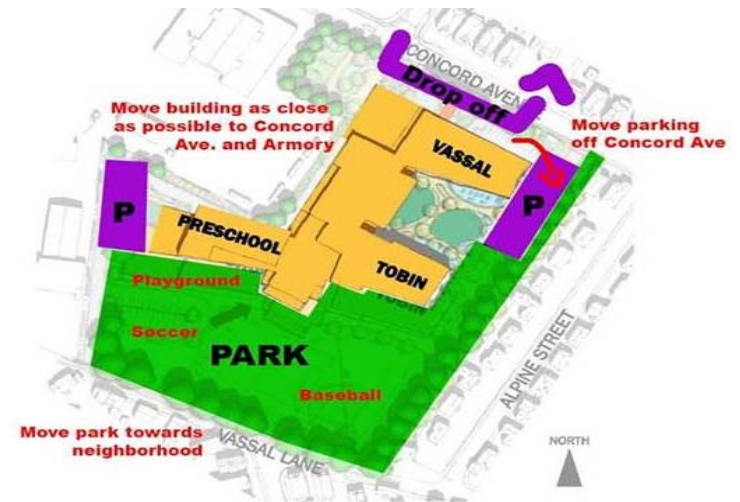
Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P21	11/13/2019	Post-it	I heard some concerns voiced about loss of playing field space. Not important to me (but I 'm not a coach or parent so vote is minor). I do hope the overall utility of the inside capacity year round is of equal priority. Thanks for the forum!	Noted
P22	11/13/2019	Post-it	If west division little league is moving to Glacken, why is there a baseball field? Baseball fields are great but they are poor multipurpose spaces	
P23	11/13/2019	Post-it	Logic to Keep a baseball field? - No baseball field provides more felicity.	
P24	11/13/2019	Post-it	if West Cambridge little is moving to Glacken why is there a baseball field? Baseball fields limit use of the open space. Kids can play a variety of sports in an open field. It doesn't feel like a good use of space.	
P25	11/13/2019	Post-it	Need less soccer more basketball courts for ms	
P26	11/13/2019	Open Comment	How do baseball and soccer work together – is it doing two things poorly vs having one good field? Can we make dedicated fields	The intent of the overlap is to provide diversity of activities on site. There are many examples of soccer fields in baseball outfields in Cambridge and surrounding communities. The major conflict is scheduling.
P27	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Kids are literally fighting over who gets to use the basketball court	Noted
P28	11/13/2019	Post-it	What green space are middle schoolers going to be actively use? Courtyard seems inadequate.	There will be a variety of play spaces and green spaces for all ages, and each will include equipment and or open play. Specific resolution will be during the design phases.
P29	11/13/2019	Post-it	The innovation agenda was meant to foster mid. School extra-curricular - music & sports - shouldn't the field space be sized to accommodate m.s. aged youth sports?	See response to P28

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P30	11/13/2019	Post-it	Outdoor Spaces: MLK - we have had some physical conflicts between Elementary School & Upper School kids in playground / fields. Designing spaces for diff ages is important (occurred during school hours @ recess)	See response to P28
P31	11/16/2019	Written	SPACE FOR CONVENTIONAL AND INNOVATIVE PLAY EQUIPMENT? The school presently has an area behind it that looks like play equipment. I presume that equipment will be selected and sized for the three different subparts. The locations for such equipment and open play space are not clear in the diagrams selected for your presentation.	Yes, play space will be varied and age appropriate. Diagrams will be updated to clearly indicate play areas. Current diagrams indicate play space as dark green.
P32	11/13/2019	Open Comment	There needs to be a color key to help people understand the blue and green spaces on site plans.	Green is play space, light green is open field space, light blue is storm water management / rain garden, gray is vehicular. Will update diagrams
P33	11/13/2019	Post-it	Explain color codes of outdoor spaces	See response to item P33
P34	11/13/2019	Post-it	Where are the "Instruction" spaces (Green?) -> the other two options show this program and its missing here.	Instructional spaces are dispersed more within the classroom wings in other options, while in this option they are grouped together forming a larger section of program
P35	11/13/2019	Post-it	To varying degrees, but in all models, Playground spaces seem - (1) not accessible to the public (2) somewhat secluded/private at night time	Outdoor spaces are accessible to the public. Security will be further considered in design phases.
P36	11/13/2019	Post-it	Renovation / Addition : Can you design a path that connects Vassal with Concord in straight line like it has today?	There is an existing pedestrian path, however there is not enough space for a full lane through the site as the other options show, without disturbing the existing trees
P37	11/13/2019	Written	We should not be losing any open space, so the design needs to change to accommodate that key concept. I'm guessing only two ways that can be done: eliminate some areas, or go high. There will be tradeoffs that need to be examined.	See response to P01 and P02

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P38	11/25/2019	Written	Explain the legal open space requirements both under Article 97 (only 5 acres? how determined?) and under the zoning for the parcel (60% open space required).	See response to P48
P39	11/15/2019	Written	4. It is wrong to assume that there is one outdoor play area for the Vassal Lane Students and one for the Tobin School students. Usually playgrounds are broken up into 2-5 year-old kids and 5-12 year old kids. The preschool and Children's House of Tobin need one playground and the Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary and Tobin School kids need another. It probably make sense to place the ball fields closer to the Vassal Lane School.	See response to P28
P40	11/25/2019	Written	How would the baseball and soccer fields be used? (What teams - only minor league baseball, is soccer full size or scaled for youth? Why shown overlapping, since field space is never enough as it is -- there must be 2 concurrently usable fields.)	See response to items P20 and P26
P41	11/25/2019	Teacher Workshop	In regards to access to and from outdoors - what about classrooms on the third floor?	Students will be organized according to age, so the older ones will be on the third floor as they have the easiest means of getting outdoors. The goal is easy access, it may not mean direct access. We will also try to integrate roof gardens for the third floor
P42	11/25/2019	Teacher Workshop	Playgrounds need separate schedules - and what capacity of students would they have	Play spaces will be age appropriate and have an appropriate capacity
P43	11/25/2019	Teacher Workshop	Concerned about the distance from playgrounds to school, and whether students can get back to class in time	Noted. This will be evaluated as the design progresses.
P44	11/26/2019	Written	Providing optimal green space and appropriate playground/park space	Noted

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P45	11/26/2019	Written	What are the variances in regarding loss of open space? The 5+ acres protected space required by zoning and the 3 options don't appear adequate. Will any space be open (as is now) for use by neighborhood residents? Your stated observations in one group are that fields are empty much of the time but I beg to differ. I understand driveways and parking lots don't count as open space, but those areas are increased in the plans.	Outdoor areas, including playgrounds and fields, will be available for public use outside of school hours. See response to item P48 for further discussion on open space.

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P46	12/2/2019	Written	<p>Regarding possible improvements to the design, here's an alternative version of Option #2 by Chris Matthews, an architect and East Cambridge resident who works on Concord Avenue at Michael Van Valkenberg landscape architects. This version uses the same building shape, but reduces the footprint slightly and shifts the building somewhat to the northwest to free up more open space on the site: In my opinion, Chris's graphic is spot on. The selling points of such a scheme are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A slight reduction in the building footprint now meets the required open space percentage, and consolidation of open space into a single larger area is preferable to having a number of small, disconnected spaces around and inside the building. • Separating the soccer and baseball field allows for concurrent use, thereby doubling functionality of space. • A green buffer along Alpine Street ensures the survivability of large oaks there and limits impacts to neighbors on Alpine Street. • The school fronts directly on Concord Avenue (similar to Cambridge Street Upper School), rather than being fronted by parking. • The parking area (marked in purple) is now directly abutting the interior playground, which is better for park visitors using the playground during non-school hours. 	<p>These suggestions will be taken into account as the design progresses forward, including the position of the building on site and reducing its footprint. See response to item t1 Please note that it is our intention to save the large oaks along the Alpine Street property line in all options.</p>



Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P47	12/2/2019	Written	It strikes me that the separation of the soccer and baseball fields such that they don't overlap is a critical need. This would add approximately ½ an acre of additional open space, but it would also double the functionality of those fields and eliminate the need to constantly be installing and removing fencing from the outfield depending on the season. And since the Tobin School is located in an "OS" (Open Space) zoning district, this change would help the project meet current open space requirements for the district without need for a variance.	See response to item P26
P48	12/2/2019	Written	This district has an open space requirement of 60%. Currently, the site is 72% open space (6.6 acres of a total site of 9.1 acres). In its presentation, the City claims that 5 acres (55%) of the site is protected open space under Article 79, but fails to mention the 60% zoning requirement. All three proposed designs have at least 55% open space, but none of them have 60%. In my opinion, all three designs would require a variance for reduced open space unless the open space percentage can be increased slightly. The modified plan above does so quite elegantly. Similarly, the City will need a variance for increased Floor Area Ratio (FAR). The current zoning allows for an FAR of 0.25, while the largest of the proposed designs has an FAR of roughly 0.75, not including underground parking (which raises the FAR to 0.89). Though the Zoning Ordinance would allow for an increase of up to 1.25 for some school uses, this exemption doesn't apply to the Tobin site because it is not zoned for residential use.	Note that the parcel is zoned as both Open Space and Residential District B. Current designs are at 57% open space with an FAR of 0.29. We are aware that the balance between open space, building height, and FAR will require further design study and potentially a zoning review.

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P49	12/6/2019	Written	Maintaining the Open Space at this site and ensuring at least two fields than can be played on concurrently is critical. Losing 1+ acres on this site, and in particular going from three baseball fields to one baseball field and one soccer field – that cannot be used at the same time – is not acceptable for this site location and alternatives that will allow for two fields that can be used concurrently should be found. This open space and playing fields serve an important function for the students at Tobin Montessori/VLUS and should be maintained. Additionally, on nights and weekends, these fields serve as a community open space resource for the many families and residents who live in the neighborhood.	See response to item P01 and P02
P50	12/6/2019	Written	In the weeks leading up to the November meeting, the decision was announced to permanently move community playing fields from Tobin to Glacken. The move was made with zero community input. Those playing fields, and the ballgames that take place there, were the heart and soul of the Tobin neighborhood in the spring and summer. And with no advance warning, they're gone.	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P51	12/8/2019	Written	The Zoning designation for the property has to be clarified. There are discrepancies in the various documents that obscure the designation and location of the Open Space zone. The true figure for the actual property will affect how much can be built on the site, and the leeway that the Planning Board has in granting a Special Permit. The site plan that the architects are using does not designate any zoning information. The Massachusetts 2017 Dirt and Development Law puts into question whether designated open space can be developed at all.	
P52	12/8/2019	Written	The little league field is a wonderful source of green and open space and joy for the entire neighborhood. Isn't there some way this can be preserved to some extent? In one design, there is a baseball field in the center of the court yard. But that doesn't provide green, open space, or a place for community socializing.	
P53	12/13/2019	Written	I am a Cambridge resident. I am strongly opposed to the loss of the playing fields. They are a wonderful asset that will never be replaced in Cambridge. They are much more valuable than parking spaces. I hope you will reconsider the loss of 3 baseball fields.	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P54	12/13/2019	Written	I was recently made aware of the proposed Tobin School Plan to expand and get rid of two of the baseball fields. I would just like to say that this is ridiculous! I spent most of my youth on those fields and have many great memories there. Why would you consider taking away outdoor sports and play area for more buildings? Your taking away the opportunity for kids to grow up there (just as I and many others did) to create their own life long lasting memories. I'm really sad to see that this was even proposed but I'm not really surprised. I grew up in Cambridge and I've watched it change over the years for the worse. It's basically unaffordable to live there (for the middle class) and it's completely losing its grip. I hope you and your colleague's take a long look at this project and consider to oppose.	
P55	12/14/2019	Written	SAVE Tobin Recreational Park! It's a natural resource providing open green space, light, and expansive skyline in an increasingly dense urban setting. In a time where there is growing awareness and advocacy for preservation of green space (including restoration of the tree-canopy) and increased recognition of the natural environment's role in mental, physical and emotional well-being, it is inconceivable that all three design proposals for the Tobin + Vassal Lane building eliminate the Tobin Park. (cont. P56)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P56	12/14/2019	Written	<p>The existing school building, originally built to serve 800 students, occupies an approximate 1.5-acre footprint out of 9.11 acres total land. 3.4 acres comprise Tobin Recreational Park and the remaining 4 plus acreage includes basketball courts, playgrounds, City Sprout’s gardens, front lawn, front entrance drive, and a parking lot. The three design proposals triple the size of the building footprint, reducing the open space to a little over 5 acres - much of which is used for parking lots and drive ways. Two designs add a drive that connects Vassal Lane to Concord Ave, running along the adjoining backyards of Alpine Street homes. The largest open green space in the redesigns accommodate a baseball field and small soccer field that overlap about half of each other’s area space - restricting the play to one game at one time. (cont. P57)</p>	
P57	12/14/2019	Written	<p>Children today spend less time outdoors than any other generation, devoting only four to seven minutes to unstructured outdoor play per day while spending an average of seven and a half hours in front of electronic media. At a time when there is national concern about anxiety, depression, and obesity in children, it is more important than ever that they have access to the natural environment. The adjacent location of a park next to a school provides students with daily access and opportunity to run and play, before, during, and after school. (cont. P58)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P58	12/14/2019	Written	There are many examples of how we all benefit from time spent in the natural environment - or even adjacent to it. In a much cited study, published in 1984 in the journal Science, environmental psychologist Roger Ulrich and his team reviewed the medical records of people recovering from gallbladder surgery at a suburban Pennsylvania hospital. All other things being equal, patients with bedside windows looking out on leafy trees healed, on average, a day faster, needed significantly less pain medication and had fewer postsurgical complications than patients who instead saw a brick wall. (cont. P59)	
P59	12/14/2019	Written	Dismissed as peripheral to medical treatment for much of the 20th century, gardens are now featured in the design of most new hospitals. In a recent survey of 100 directors and architects of assisted-living residences, 82 percent agreed that “the design of outdoor space should be one of the most important considerations in the design.” Shouldn’t these same values and considerations be applied to our schools? There is more than adequate space to enlarge the school building without eliminating the Tobin Recreation Park. We owe it to our children and our community to preserve this valuable green space. Thank you.	
P60	12/14/2019	Written	Kids need open space and playgrounds so please reconsider moving so many programs into this traffic congested area. Our fields and playgrounds are valuable to both our neighborhood and to the children at the school.	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P61	12/14/2019	Written	Open space has been shown to improve learning outcomes and health, and it also builds and fosters community. None of the current three options presented preserve the the type of open space that a school of the proposed size requires. If the population of the school is nearly doubled, the open space should reflect that, and not drastically reduce the open space. The proposed plans call for reducing what is now three full ball fields plus an extra play field to a space that accommodates one ball field and one soccer field, which are overlapping and not able to be used simultaneously. The site is not just a school, but also a community gathering place, and the redesign suggests taking over the entire site as a “school campus” – that has never been its intended use. (cont. T67)	
P62	12/17/2019	Written	More importantly, we need athletic fields! Children and a community need to congregate and interact. It is central to health--mental and physical. Schools need to be supported by the community. If the school is a big block surrounded by traffic, the locals will not connect to it. If it is a vibrant interactive, green space, filled with laughing, running children (and parents and adult neighbors), it makes us all feel part of the school.	
P63	12/15/2019	Written	I urge you to save the fields and green space or even make them larger. The children need outside space for social and emotional well being ! (cont. O49)	
P64	12/19/2019	Written	Please don't take it for school we need the green space and Tobin is big for its population having had our kids there for ten years .	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P65	12/20/2019	Written	<p>As a Cambridge resident and a psychologist concerned with the health of our community, I was surprised to learn that the building proposals for the Tobin school would consume the nearby green space and park. There is a movement across the country to ensure access to open sky and green space as a way of ensuring well-being and mental health. Consider the long legal fight to save the Prouty garden at Children’s Hospital. The new Yawkey cancer center at Dana-Farber contains a beautiful two-story garden space. Why is Cambridge going in the opposite direction? This park is equally important to our community and to our kids. From speaking with others, I believe there is adequate space for a new building without losing the fields and green space. Once it is gone it is gone, and our community loses a park forever. In my experience architects and developers often see open land as an enticing opportunity. They are not looking at the whole picture. Please, please ask our three finalists to return to the drawing board and submit designs that preserve our park. It is the right thing to do for our kids and our community, and it may avoid a protracted legal battle.</p>	
P66	12/20/2019	Written	<p>I am writing to express my opposition to any of the Tobin development plans that include eliminating the Tobin recreational field. Talented architects should be able to design a renovation that expands vertically rather than spreads out into much needed green space.</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P67	12/21/2019	Written	<p>I was disturbed to learn that Tobin Recreational Park was eliminated in all three design options introduced last month for the Tobin / Vassal Lane School redevelopment project. At a time of an anticipated increase in flooding as the climate warms, we need more permeable green space not less. The proposed elimination of most of the park and the lack of green space in the proposed plans is truly alarming. Healthy soil, trees, native plants, sports playing fields, natural permeable play areas and well managed green space do a much better job of flood mitigation than the proposed construction of an on-site 1.5 million gallon underground storm water tank. A park of trees and green plants improves air quality, helps cool the air, re-hydrates the water table, and nurtures positive interactions among children from the school and residents of the neighborhood. This is a big and expensive project. We can do better than expand the school at the cost of eliminating a school and natural community asset: Tobin Recreational Park.</p>	
P68	12/27/2019	Written	<p>I'd like to add my voice to those who urge the city to PRESERVE Tobin Recreational Park when renovating Tobin School. One of my children, many years ago, played on the Little League team that met there, and I drive and walk near the park all the time. It is SO important to preserve what little open space is available to us in Cambridge. Fresh Pond is nearby, but it doesn't offer the same recreational opportunities or access for children that Tobin does. There must be a way to redesign Tobin School and at the same time preserve the park.</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P69	12/29/2019	Written	And to destroy all the play areas and baseball fields and open spaces on Callahan Park is preposterous. (cont. O50)	
P70	12/29/2019	Written	The Tobin field is a tremendous community resource. It's a pity to lose it. (cont. O51)	
P71	12/29/2019	Written	As a lifetime resident of, taxpayer to and voter in Cambridge, I urge you NOT to use the fields behind Tobin School for building. We desperately need our green space.	
P72	12/30/2019	Written	While the city is undertaking the design of a new Universal Playground at a close by site in Danehy Park, the Tobin redesign, including the outdoor spaces needs to also be Universal in design and create seamless interior to outside experience for all learners. Students at VLUS/Tobin are too far from the planned Danehy playground space for school day use. What is an appropriate scale? The new proposed design plan for all three, is overtaking the current lot, is not thoughtful of neighborhood and is not thoughtful of the students best and most appropriate learning. (cont. P73)	
P73	12/30/2019	Written	As abutters and long-time residents of the neighborhood we are also very concerned about impacts on the neighborhood. The fields and playgrounds have served as a community gathering place and served a strong role in knitting the community together. They have provided, not only a convenient and accessible place for our children to play outdoors, but also an opportunity to meet and get to know many of our neighbors as our children have played together on those fields. The neighborhood will inevitably become less cohesive if those opportunities are taken away. (cont. T77)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P74	12/31/2019	Written	<p>A beautiful new school for our children does not have to eliminate field space. Use of height along the Armory side could add space without covering precious permeable green space. Parking for the school can go underground. There are choices that architects can make to preserve the space while also creating a beautiful new school, and we ask that they make every effort to do so. As the leaders of Cambridge Girls Softball Association, Cambridge Youth Lacrosse, Cambridge Youth Soccer and West Cambridge Little Baseball League, we ask on behalf of our current and future families that the city make every effort to create a state-of-the art school facility that maintains field space in the city. When children and families “see” youth sports and have access to the spaces without taking long rides in traffic, more kids participate. (cont. P75)</p>	
P75	12/31/2019	Written	<p>There are more sports activities available to children today, but it benefits everybody if we can recruit new residents, communities with limited resources, more young women and increase participation across the board in local, community-based programs. This cannot happen if we eliminate playing fields, and our children will end up losing, even if they gain a beautiful new school. Our organizations will continue to work in partnership with the city and work together to share and accommodate each other as much as possible. We ask for the city and school departments continued partnership to maintain and expand our playing fields city wide.</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P76	12/31/2019	Written	<p>I'm a long term resident, living 2 blocks from the Tobin. I wish to agree with my neighbors that the loss of so much green space is unacceptable. The park is needed for both the neighborhood and the schoolchildren. Play is an essential part of childhood; where are children to play in a city if we eliminate park space? Also there's a definite need for more exercise. Many years ago, my children attended the Cambridgeport school, when it was located across from Dana Park. The park sparked so much connection after school- the children played, the parents met each other, it was really terrific. I hope the school designers can keep this sort of image in their minds as they go back to the drawing board. (cont. T80)</p>	
P77	12/31/2019	Written	<p>All three proposed plans for the new Tobin School have eliminated the Tobin Recreational Park at a time when we should be preserving open green space in our city. Recent research has highlighted the importance of green space to the mental and physical well-being of our residents, particularly our children. Given that the school will be expanded to accommodate more students, maintaining green space will be even more crucial. Seven of our 12 elementary schools have no adjacent green space to play in. Children are spending less and less time outside in unstructured play so crucial to their intellectual and emotional development. Keeping the park's separate baseball and soccer fields are vital to already limited field access across the city. (cont. S28)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P78	1/1/2020	Written	We write on behalf of the children of Cambridge. Access to open green spaces is critical to children’s development. Research shows children who spend more time outside in natural environments are physically healthier, emotionally sounder and better able to learn. From an adult perspective, one could imagine saying, “No problem with less green space around the Tobin, let’s just drive over to...”. Please remember not everyone can jump in a car and go. Moreover, if we wish to offer children the chance to direct their own play, having access to local green space is critical. We strongly urge you to preserve all of Tobin Recreational Park.	
P79	1/1/2020	Written	It would be ideal to have a safe multiuse path connection for people walking and cycling to and through the site. We want to send our kids to school without having to drive them there to keep them safe. Thanks!	
P80	1/2/2020	Written	In short, I urge the architect to revise the building plan to preserve open space and playing fields. I ask decision-makers to consider programming alongside the facilities renovation process.	
P81	1/3/2020	Written	As an abutter to the Tobin School and a regular tutor there, I write to urge you to reconsider the present three options for the new school. The main drawbacks are the elimination of adequate open outdoor space for the students... (cont. T84)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P82	1/3/2020	Written	<p>In 1962, as a new resident in Cambridge, one of us, Sara Mae, joined a committee looking into whether the amount of recreation space in our city was sufficient. A Mr. Hainsworth of the National Recreation Association was a consultant. As a new young member of the group, Sara Mae volunteered to serve as Secretary. She figured that was a good way to learn about the situation. One fact stuck with her---to this day: that our city had less than one-quarter of the nationally-recommended amount of park space for a city of our size. Since then, Cambridge has continued to use park space on which to build its schools. The Harrington (now many buildings) School on Donnelly Field, the newest additions sharply decreasing the park. The Fitzgerald (now Peabody) School on Rindge Field. The Kennedy (+Longfellow) School on Ahearn Field. The Morse School on State owned open park land by Memorial Drive. The (Houghton) ML King School on Putnam Ave. on part of a neighborhood park. This continues an earlier habit: The Longfellow School on Broadway was built on Harvard Park. And there may be more. Now Callahan Field, which has 3 ball fields, and other open space, is proposed to be consumed by a huge building complex, with little bits of space around the edges. This continues a very short-sighted planning approach---and must be completely reconsidered. (cont. P83)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P83	1/3/2020	Written	It's time we learn from Cambridge's record of treating parks and public open space as an expendable resource and avoid repeating this mistake on the Tobin School site. Quality open space provides benefits for the public and neighbors, including the kids. It's just as important for children's welfare and development as quality school buildings. We need to get this project right, and the way to do this is through the right process and thoughtful planning. The project seems to be headed to the Planning Board for a Special Permit or variance because of the proposed reduction of open space on the lot under all three options. This review should happen as early as possible in the process. The Planning Board not only is responsible for decisions about the development of public open space but is uniquely qualified and has the tools to evaluate critical planning issues such as the quality of open space and project siting. (cont. P84)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P84	1/3/2020	Written	<p>The Cambridge Zoning Ordinance (Sec. 5.54.2) specifically calls for the Planning Board to "make a determination that the Proposed Recreational Open Space shall provide benefits to the public that are at least commensurate with the existing Public Open Space on the lot," before allowing any reduction in the quantity of public open space on the lot. The Zoning Ordinance (Sec. 4.25) also requires the Planning Board to receive and evaluate "An analysis of alternative sites for the development outside of the district." The finding of the Planning Board on the quality of replacement open space will be directly relevant to the Home Rule petition to the State Legislature that will be needed for relief from the provisions of Article 97 which protects 5 acres of the site. To get the TMVLUS project right, the City should refer the plans to the Planning Board for review and approval of open space issues before filing this Home Rule petition. (cont. P85)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P85	1/3/2020	Written	<p>Our experience with the City's Article 97 Home Rule Petition for another project (the Inman Square Redesign, in 2018) is that the State will not independently evaluate the quality not quantity of replacement open space but instead accepts the accuracy of information and evaluations provided with the City's application. In other words, the Article 97 process requires a formal approval but does not provide for a substantive review of open space impacts by any State agency or committee of the Legislature. Once this State process is completed, the Planning Board's ability to require consideration of alternatives that truly maintain the quantity and quality of public open space will be greatly impaired. Cambridge is decimating its park space, because it already "owns" the land. What we really needs to consider is what the lack of open park space does to the quality of life for our citizens of all ages.</p>	
P86	1/3/2020	Written	<p>Do not engulf the 80+-year Open Space on the parcel abutting the 1972 John H. Tobin/Vassal Lane elementary schools and the 1960 National Guard Armory. The Father Callanan Playground and Tobin playing fields were created in 1938 as a community resource under FDR's Works Progress Administration/WPA. The playground was renovated in 2007 after hard-fought residents' campaigns to keep this Open Space green and inviting for citywide residents, from infant caregivers to preschoolers, school-age, Little Leagues' & adults' formal and informal sports games. The space needs to retain its mature trees (puhleez, no post-development scrubs & saplings!), living green grass, age-appropriate play spaces, picnic tables, benches, water source for users of all ages. (cont. C12)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
P87	1/15/2020	Written	4) Garden beds outside each classroom as in current situation so the children can continue the Montissorie practice of incorporating nature into all aspects of learning. Light is important however, too highly designed open air spaces aren't functional for school children when they have different needs than many working adults. THeY need quiet learning environment, spaces to play, improvise and call their own. (cont. O66)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T001	11/13/2019	Open Comment	It should be easy to solve this.	There are many considerations being balanced in order to arrive at the most optimal solution
T002	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Some of this is worth studying now with more detail and real world measurements	A formal traffic impact study (TIS) will be required to analyze transportation related impacts associated with the Project. Once a preferred option is selected this study will inform the design solution.
T003	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Impossible for people to get out of their homes now - often have to wait and plan for certain periods of the day to travel	See response to item T2
T004	11/13/2019	Open Comment	School arrival does collide with peak traffic hours especially in the morning – people need to get to work and school starts at same time	Noted. Also, school start/end times are staggered by school to minimize peak volumes.
T005	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Fresh Pond will be more of a grid lock than it is now - there needs to be a study on that specifically	See response to item T2
T006	11/13/2019	Post-it	Heavy traffic Concord Ave - L from concord is difficult (bus stop + emergency vehicles)	See response to item T2
T007	11/13/2019	Post-it	I don't think you all fully understand the traffic on Concord Ave	See response to item T2
T008	11/13/2019	Post-it	Concord has islands near fern	Noted
T009	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Don't let westbound traffic on Concord turn into the site.	See response to item T2
T010	11/13/2019	Open Comment	No one wants to be routed to Concord Avenue.	Noted
T011	11/13/2019	Post-it	Hard to get to Concord	Noted
T012	11/13/2019	Post-it	Alpine/Concord light backs up almost to rotary: - Needed for Peds. - Maybe Move + Multiple Drop-Offs	Noted
T013	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Traffic on Concord is terrible.	Noted
T014	11/13/2019	Post-it	Standish - 1 direction Vassal to Huron Helped (2nd check F.D.)	Team will double check with Cambridge Fire Department and consider in traffic study recommendations

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T015	11/13/2019	Post-it	Prefers not use circle drive	The intention of providing on-site drop-off/pick-up space is to reduce parking on the neighborhood streets and improve safety. It is understood that all existing behaviors will not be changed by a new drop-off/pick-up area. Measures will be taken to encourage the use of designated drop-off areas, manage the movement of vehicles on the site to reduce back-ups and maintain safety.
T016	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Traffic on Vassal is terrible.	See response to item T2
T017	11/13/2019	Open Comment	I have a question on sound study, traffic study is current, what happens when the population is doubled and building is filled	Will study as design develops
T018	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Concerns about what direction the traffic will come from with new pattern – new problems	See response to item T2
T019	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Traffic at Alpine intersection with buses blocking both directions – it will only get worse with through way	See response to item T2
T020	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Can we put buses on Concord, entering off of Fern Street and exit near Alpine? Can cars loop on Vassal?	Will study as design develops
T021	11/13/2019	Post-it	Look at busses off concord & cars off vassal.	Noted
T022	11/13/2019	Post-it	Busses get stuck on Vassal - watch turn onto Vassal.	When the Preferred option is determined, bus turns will be reviewed for the design to ensure routing is safe.
T023	11/13/2019	Open Comment	The buses will idle in my (neighboring residents) back yard.	Buses are not allowed to idle for longer than 5 minutes per state law. This will be enforced to ensure adherence.
T024	11/13/2019	Post-it	Prefer building @ Alpine than buses	Noted
T025	11/13/2019	Post-it	Concern of bus noise at Alpine St.	Noted
T026	11/13/2019	Open Comment	The buses don't idle.	See response to T26
T027	11/13/2019	Open Comment	One way from Concord to Vassal will make lefts and rights more difficult	Noted

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T028	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Can we run buses from Vassal west along the perimeter on the west side and out to Concord? Alpine street residents would prefer not to have buses in their back yard	This is challenging due to the Armory but can be reviewed.
T029	11/16/2019	Written	<p>The design group made three assumptions which need to be questioned: 1. They equated Vassal Lane traffic with the traffic on Concord Ave. This is obviously ridiculous. There is no reasonable comparison.</p> <p>2. The building height has to be limited to a maximum of 3 floors. As a former text book publisher's representative, I have visited hundreds of schools throughout the country. Many schools make use of escalators when the building needs to be higher than 3 floors. The older children are placed on the top floors and the younger ones on the lower levels. And yes, the kids love riding the escalators. Also, many of the administrative offices can be placed on the top floor.</p> <p>3. They assume parents dropping off children will want to drive onto the grounds and possibly get stuck in backups from other cars. As one mother stated at the traffic meeting, " I will continue to drop off my child on Vassal Lane by the curb. Concord Ave is too difficult to get to and I don't want my child to be walking between cars or buses."</p>	<p>1. 1. A formal traffic impact study will be required to analyze transportation related impacts associated with the Project. (See response to T2.) The intention of providing on-site drop-off/pick-up space is to reduce parking on the neighborhood streets and improve safety. It is understood that all existing behaviors will not be changed by a new drop-off/pick-up area. Measures will be taken to encourage the use of designated drop-off areas, manage the movement of vehicles on the site to reduce back-ups and maintain safety.</p> <p>2. Noted. See response to items D35 and D58</p> <p>3. The proposed drop-off/pick-up lane will be wide enough to provide a drive aisle and parking aisle, and long enough to accommodate both cars and buses. All current behaviors will not be changed by providing a new drop-off/pick-up area. Measures will be taken to encourage the use of designated drop-off areas, manage the movement of vehicles on the site to reduce back-ups and maintain safety.</p>

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T030	11/16/2019	Written	<p>I would recommend the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The building be in the shape of a T. with the front and top of the T facing Vassal Lane. It could cover part of the ground in back of the present building and present parking lot as well as part of the ground under the present building. This would provide more space in front of the building for bus and car drop offs. The building would have an extension that paralleled the Armory parking lot. It would extent no further than the basketball court. One or both sections of the T shape should be 4 floors with escalators. 2. Having bus and car cut-ins on Concord Ave is guaranteed to create traffic backups on Concord Ave and backup to the Fresh Pond Rotary. Fire engines, ambulances, police cars, delivery trucks and thousands of cars already cause backups. Lets not make it worse. 3. Part or all of the front part of the building that would be built over the present parking lot could have an open ground floor that could be used for parking and drop off, or entry to an underground parking garage. For example, the new school addition on Harvard St in Brookline has a partial open section on the ground floor for staff parking. 4. Parents of pre-school and special needs children are more likely to drive their children to school than parents of older children. A very good reason not to have drop off areas on Concord Ave. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Complete traffic study will include this consideration. 3. Noted. 4. Noted.
T031	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Wings looks cleaner for pedestrian circulation because it doesn't compete with vehicular entrances	Noted
T032	11/13/2019	Post-it	Circulation for Pavilions & Wings for pre-school drop-off zones look terrible on-site and will create congestion on Vassal Lane? Be sure to model/sim. Traffic flow under future conditions.	These options show a means of alleviating some traffic around the other schools, and proposes a separate area for parents to drop off and/or walk in their child(ren) for the preschool. Study will continue in the design phases

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T033	11/16/2019	Written	DROPOFF AND PICKUP: I understand that pickup involves waiting for the kid to show up, whereas drop-off is more straight-forward. The current distribution of pickup times is informative. However, the number of kids is going to double and the number of vans and buses shown on the diagrams remains at 3 and 6. Also saying that there will be 52 on-site spaces for pickup as opposed to the current 39 on-street pickups does not consider the doubling of the number of students. Do you expect a surge of pickups by parents using bicycles?	The analysis has assumed that the increase populations of students can be served by existing buses and vans. This is based on observations that indicate there is sufficient capacity available on site for these vehicles. The analysis has increased the population of students as noted in the program. Its important to understand that the buildings will hold multiple different schools that have staggered start times. Therefore, doubling the population does not simply double the drop-off need.
T034	11/13/2019	Post-it	Some parents have multiple children to drop off. Currently their traffic all goes to the same place but if every school has a separate entrance there will be "double dipping"	We are minimizing the potential for "double dipping" by adding a vehicular lane to direct flow from Concord Ave. to Vassal Lane in both the Wings and Pavilions option. This allows parents/caregivers with multiple children to drop off their children close to both the Tobin and VLUS entries. Parents/Caregivers can then turn from Vassal Lane into the preschool parking area where they can safely park their car and walk their children in. Unfortunately, Renovation / Addition does not have room to add this vehicular lane.
T035	11/13/2019	Post-it	Why so much parking space? Can there be a drop off area that doesn't take so much play space?	We have provided the on-site parking spaces required by the City. Parking lots accommodate parents walking their children into school
T036	11/13/2019	Open Comment	There isn't enough faculty parking.	Noted. The proposed underground parking includes 100 spaces and is for school faculty and staff. The underground parking being provided is per City Zoning and not based strictly on the number of staff anticipated. Entry to the parking garage is indicated by the ramps

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T037	11/16/2019	Written	UNDERGROUND PARKING? Slide 8 mentions +/- 55,000 sq. ft. of underground parking, but the subject is never mentioned again. Is it an option with significant cost? How many cars is that? Who would use it, faculty and staff? How many faculty and staff will there be? Where is the entry on the circulation diagrams?	See response to item T36
T038	11/13/2019	Post-it	Underground parking how will safety and security be managed?	This will be addressed in the design phases. Some possibilities include, lighting, cameras, and security gate/door.
T039	11/13/2019	Post-it	Why do we need above ground parking vs. maximizing underground space.	The above ground parking is intended for use by drop-off/pick-ups of students. It is not intended to be parked in throughout the day. The surface parking could be used by daytime visitors but is not intended to be used for long-term parking throughout the day.
T040	11/13/2019	Post-it	is it possible to make parking areas multipurpose for weekend/afterschool hours? i.e. throw basketball courts in those areas?	This will be explored as the design progresses.
T041	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Is there all day parking on the proposed bus/access lane	The intention is for the few daytime visitors to use the surface parking spaces provided on the site, however, the lane from Vassal to Concord will be closed to traffic and parking except at school drop off and pick up periods.
T042	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Don't bother with cars in the site because I'm going to park on the street anyway.	Noted
T043	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Big increase in biking – what about all the students that bike?	We have noticed the many students and staff use the existing bicycle racks on site. These and new bicyclists will be accommodated in both short and long-term bicycle parking spaces that will comply with the City requirements.
T044	11/13/2019	Post-it	Lots of bike parking esp. VLUS	Noted
T045	11/13/2019	Post-it	Where do bike commuters (either parents dropping off or kids commuting) fit in the traffic pattern?	Bikers are part of our traffic calculations, and will be noted more specifically as design develops

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T046	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Current Envision path is on western part of the site – not a great solution	Wanted to keep bicycle path separate from drop-off/ pick-up traffic, and connect with bike lane on Fern Street to Fresh Pond Parkway crossing as indicated in Envision Alewife report.
T047	11/19/2019	Written	Plead that the city consider existing traffic congestion on Concord Ave when considering the plans for expanding the Tobin School. Except Sundays, between Alpine St and the Fresh Pond rotary, the traffic has gotten so bad in recent years that adding school traffic is going to create a nightmare for the neighborhood. Even off peak hours, the traffic is out of control. Why not keep school traffic to Vassal Lane—as it is currently—which has virtually no traffic and is not a major byway? I hope that you will consider this when making any decisions. Thank you for your consideration.	See response to item T2.
T048	11/21/2019	Written	While I have many concerns with this project I would like to express my single greatest concern to you. I would like the city and it's contractors to do all they can to ensure that the resulting new automobile traffic be routed in a manner that prioritizes and keeps pedestrians and cyclists safe. Cambridge is a walking/cycling city. When I hear there will be new routes for automobiles to travel I want to know that we are doing all we can to protect the most vulnerable users of our public spaces. The new automobile routes will be directly adjacent to my home where we have two children. Please do all you can to keep them safe.	The current design proposes that pedestrian/cycle paths are separated from motor vehicle traffic on site, and to keep motor vehicles out of the neighborhood streets during pick-up and drop-off periods to increase safety both on and off site. As the design progresses we will also incorporate methods of keeping any adjacent paths and property safe from vehicles

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T049	11/18/2019	Written	I am strongly against adding a vehicular passage or road on the east side of the property connecting Vassal Lane and Concord Avenue (on the back side of the Alpine Street properties). This is a waste of open space and it would be duplicating vehicular access already available using Alpine Street. If some vehicles need to use this passage, it should not go all the way across the property.	See response to item T2. Please note that the lane on site will be closed to traffic and parking except at school drop-off and pick-up periods in an effort to keep traffic and parking off of neighborhood streets.
T050	11/25/2019	Written	Has the increase in bus/car traffic throughout the day been analyzed for the new population, some with special needs (special buses/vans) and more preschoolers who can't take a bus?	See response to item T33
T051	1/0/1900		0 Not used	
T052	11/25/2019	Written	If there is going to through traffic between Concord to Vassal, do not place it along Alpine side. The proposed driveway is nuisance for Alpine abutters, problematic for turning radius onto Vassal (25.5' street width at that point and trees), more paving near roots of mature trees.	Noted
T053	11/25/2019	Written	Could the underground garage be expanded to reduce need for surface parking? Is the 55K sf garage on 1 level or 2? Could there be limited-access short-term parking in a portion of the garage for those who require drop-off and pick-up to be off street? Architect estimated 80 surfaces spaces would still be needed (what is that based on?). Could loading/service be underground?	Underground pick-up/drop-off and loading will be further studied. See response to item T36 for information on current underground parking design requirements.
T054	1/0/1900		0 Not used	
T055	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	How many staff can park in 100 spaces? Are staff parking spots being taken for family drop off and pick up spots? Why not have the family parking be green spaces since they live in the area and can park on the street	Those that have the Cambridge sticker could park on the street if they wish. Parking isn't driven by design or school, the City has codes and calculations driven by Community Development, Parking and Zoning and sustainability. The calculations for family and visitor parking are separate from staff parking calculations

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T056	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	Are all adults entering off of Concord Ave? What about all the traffic	Our strategy is to get buses and parent drop off / pick up off the public roads, and the lane traffic direction is based on drop off / pick up being on the right side of the cars and buses so that students do not have to cross the street
T057	11/25/2019	Teacher Wo	What about staff entry / exit	Staff parking and entry would be via a below-grade parking garage. Staff entering on foot or bicycle would enter in the same manner as students.
T058	11/26/2019	Written	Consideration of traffic and parking impact on the neighbors, and city streets in general	See response to T2
T059	11/26/2019	Written	Why is there any new above ground parking planned when remediation will require excavation that will make building underground parking preparation easier? If above ground, could parking be negotiated with the armory which has a chunk of sparsely used asphalted area close to the boundary of the school property?	On-grade parking does not require the same extent of excavation as underground parking. The design team is exploring options that move on-grade parking below grade.
T060	11/26/2019	Written	Why a new drive for busses parallel to Alpine St when a serviceable drive already exists by the other side of the school? The underground parking, drop-off and bus management could be done under the building in a safer, controlled manner with good planning. Vassal is too narrow for bus turning. Sideswipes of busses with cars already happens outside my house.	See response to item T28

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T061	12/2/2019	Written	Finally, regardless of the design selected, I would like to see the Vassal Lane drop-off circle eliminated, because it causes too many cars and buses to drive down Standish Street each morning and afternoon. Standish Street is significantly narrower than Lakeview or Concord Avenues and becomes almost impassable to school buses in the winter when accumulated snow means that cars can't park as tight to the curb as during the warmer months.	See response to item T15
T062	12/6/2019	Written	As my colleagues mentioned, the design should not include any surface parking, all parking should be planned for underground. This will help maintain the open space. Additionally, we need to plan the appropriate number of parking spaces to match the planned number of adults in the building who need parking. As we know, the majority of our teachers do not live in Cambridge largely to the high cost of housing and parking is a challenge at all of our schools.	See response to item T59
T063	12/8/2019	Written	The architects didn't seem to differentiate between traffic on Vassal Lane and traffic on Concord Ave. They didn't seem to understand that entering the school grounds from Concord Ave had broad implications for traffic at the rotary and for miles around.	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T064	12/8/2019	Written	There needs to be a thorough traffic analysis for the proposed project, not just the one for current vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian use that the architects presented. The proximity of the jams at the rotaries and on Concord Avenue do not seem to be considered, as is safety. Realistic reduction of school vehicular traffic, either by program reduction or new drop-off rules must be considered. Also, abutters' concerns about side streets being flooded with traffic and parking must be addressed by this study.	
T065	12/14/2019	Written	I have lived on Vassal Lane at the corner of Alpine for 25 years now and have directly observed difficult traffic situations (Vassal at my corner is only 25.5 feet wide) with crashes of cars and school busses outside my house. I understand the number of children will be doubled and do not see that traffic studies have been done to address safety in developing the plans. (cont. T66)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T066	12/14/2019	Written	<p>One of the largest groups of students expanding is pre-school, who by necessity will need to be escorted to and from school by parents in their cars. Parents currently park outside our house and since it is a long walk for them are gone for a while. If parking is tight, they will use my driveway or block it so there are already inconveniences, but I can't imagine the snarl and parking problems with 160 additional pre-schoolers in the new building and the additional busses for the older kids. While underground parking and pick-up/drop/off will help and preserve some park and playground area on the lot, the increases in students overall have not been adequately explained, or as I see it planned for. Additionally, young children ideally should be as close to their own neighborhoods as possible. Why are there so many additional programs? (cont. P60)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T067	12/14/2019	Written	<p>It seems there have been no transportation studies done that realistically reflect the impact on the Concord Ave and rotary traffic patterns, nor the impact on the side streets of the neighborhood. Even without the school being accessed from Concord Ave currently, there is gridlock during critical times of day and speeding drivers on side streets to avoid Concord Ave. Increasing (more than doubling) the number of cars accessing this location would not only frustrate those trying to get to work in Cambridge from the suburbs, but will have a negative impact on the safety of students trying to get to school. Why build a net-zero building that will have hundreds more cars driving to and from the site? There has also been no attempt to propose alternative transportation options for this project. There needs to be a Parking & Traffic Demand Management (PTDM) plan implemented to significantly reduce the number of individuals arriving in cars in the course of the day. (cont.)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T068	12/19/2019	Written	<p>My other main concern is vehicular access, mainly bus traffic. Any google earth view of the site reveals that the Vassal streets are and should remain residential, while Concord Ave, for better or worse, is a major commercial traffic route. The current situation of buses screaming away from the school along Vassal and out to adjacent residential streets is obnoxious and worse, dangerous. Many of us have lost mirrors, doors and its only time before a real injury results. Making this worse is the idea of bringing buses from Concord, along the backyards of Alpine St residents, a kind of one-way Bus Highway, then making a sharp left turn onto Vassal, directly facing my house. It just doesn't make sense from various standpoints. The only plus is that the bus can have kids exit on the right side directly to the bldg. This is a valid safety concern, and Im glad that safety is being attended to within the site, but what about around the site? It is also obvious that the Fresh Pond side of Tobin is zoned commercial and would be minimally impacted by traffic along that edge.</p> <p>(cont. T69)</p>	
T069	12/19/2019	Written	<p>I have done three quick sketches, for the three presented schemes. They are attached. They are preliminary but are valid schematically. They keep bus and autos along the Fresh Pond side. They provide full access to all buildings for the buses. They direct buses onto Concord Ave. They may require the use of coordinated traffic lights (as you might see in front of a Fire Station) during the times when buses exit the school en-masse. Its not high tech and to my mind a lot more neighborhood-safety-friendly than anything being proposed. (cont. T70)</p>	
T070	12/19/2019	Written	(cont. T71)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T071	12/19/2019	Written	[REDACTED]	
T072	12/28/2019	Written	The traffic and parking issues have increased substantially, and today, traffic on Huron avenue, particularly between 3-6 pm is unbearable, with lines of cars stretching from appleton street to concord avenue. Greatly expanding the school and recreational activities will have a negative impact on the surrounding neighborhood, which is already overrun with traffic, illegally parked cars and idling cars either waiting for passengers, checking emails and making calls. Please respect those who already live here and are not receiving sufficient city support services to keep this a neighborhood where residents walk or bike for transportation. Thank you for your consideration.	
T073	12/29/2019	Written	The current three plans offered for this rebuild of the school site really offer not much difference at all from each other. To suggest major access to all three schools from Concord Avenue will prove to be a disastrous decision for morning rush hour commuter traffic for all concerned. To even think that school buses would be able to easily access the new schools from by taking a left-hand turn from Concord Avenue at a new school vehicular entrance is, in my opinion, evidence that these planners have little if any experience trying to get anywhere in Cambridge from Concord Ave. during morning rush hour. (cont. T74)	
T074	12/29/2019	Written	To allow school buses to use the pedestrian footpath that borders Alpine St. is even more proof of poor planning. (cont. P69)	
T075	12/29/2019	Written	It seems as if in trying to respond to traffic complaints you've come up with a worse solution (the road through what's now a park). (cont. P70)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T076	12/30/2019	Written	<p>These students often arrive and depart on smaller buses and require more time for transfers both to and from school: long outside bus lines and many more bus drivers and aides. These students come with and require much more personal gear, including walkers, wheelchairs, gait trainers and higher level and purpose-built larger bathroom design that accounts for one-on-one care. Much more space is required for comfortable and thoughtful instruction, safe mobility and purposeful social interaction and opportunity. (cont. P72)</p>	
T077	12/30/2019	Written	<p>Finally, there are the concerns associated with traffic and parking. At its current scale, the Tobin / VLUS creates significant challenges in this arena. The residential streets Standish Street and Vassal Lane are congested with buses and parents picking up and dropping off students. Concord Avenue, meanwhile has its own challenges independent of the school. It is not evident that the design team has adequately thought through the magnitude of traffic impacts associated with the increased faculty, staff and student populations to be housed in the new school. (cont. T78)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T078	12/30/2019	Written	None of the three proposals adequately addresses parking needs. We support Jan Devereux’s idea about broaching a shared use plan with the Armory. The city has been able to somehow have conversations with the government/Armory regarding storage of construction gear during the years long Huron A-B-C graywater and more work. For more than twenty years, the Armory lot has only had a handful of cars on weekdays, very infrequently a few more for voting times or dog training classes. It is mostly untended and unused. What can the city offer the Armory such that this can be a shared-use site and incorporated into the redesign? (cont. T79)	
T079	12/30/2019	Written	The proposed internal roadway that borders the current fields and back alley of trees behind Alpine Street is not thoughtful of the current neighbors, noise and green space. If more cross site roadways are integrated into the design, which makes sense for a “school” (that is now planned to be three to four schools), the roadway, even if only used for drop off and pick up, and any above ground parking should be shrouded by the building and should hug the commercialized side of the site near the parkway. (cont. O53)	
T080	12/31/2019	Written	Also, I’m concerned that Concord Ave. is poorly suited to be a bus entrance for the school. There is so much gridlock there already, with a strong chance that it will get worse due to future development. There’s a good chance that buses will have trouble getting in and out.	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T081	12/31/2019	Written	As a likely future parent in Cambridge Public Schools, I'd like my family to have access to our schools by bicycle. Therefore, in the Tobin School rebuild, I would like to see a safe multiuse path connection for people walking and cycling through the site, which is entirely possible but has not been designed this way so far.	
T082	12/31/2019	Written	I am a parent of a Tobin student, and we bike to school nearly every day, in all seasons. In designing the school's replacement structures and grounds, I strongly urge you to include safe, clearly-designated paths for cyclist and pedestrian transit to and through the site.	
T083	1/1/2020	Written	I am writing to ask that you include a bike access path in the redesign of the upper school and also ensure that there is enough bike parking for all students. I was part of the first graduating class of VLUS and biked to school almost every day, but found it difficult to find parking. Thanks so much!	
T084	1/3/2020	Written	...and the enormous increase in the number of students, causing even more congestion and dangerous traffic on Vassal Lane. I am most concerned with the quality of daily life for the students which, at the moment, appears to be more negative than positive.	
T085	1/13/2020	Written	Likewise, the city has not described any of the after-school programming that will be taking place at the schools and the transportation impacts of that programming. o Will the proposed increase in student population translate into an increase in after school participants? o What will the staff needs be? o Will buses be arriving from other schools to drop off children for after school? (cont. D114)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T086	1/14/2020	Written	1. Parking spaces (Our teachers have special qualifications and travel large distances to be a part of this unique public Montessori community. We absolutely need to accommodate them.) (cont. D118)	
T087	1/14/2020	Written	The other issue I feel compelled to mention is parking. Unfortunately, most teachers cannot afford to live in Cambridge. Public transportation either does not exist for some of us OR adds a daunting amount of time to our commute. Add the fact that most teachers arrive with arms filled with supplies we have brought in from home to support our lessons - something that makes public transportation even harder. I hope that Tobin Montessori's unique pedagogy allows for a new school plan that supports what we need to do our best. And that we will not have the added stress of finding parking in an already crowded city.	
T088	1/14/2020	Written	Abutters seem concerned about increased traffic and the population of children in the vicinity. Speaking as someone who lives a half a block from the Peabody School, I am hard pressed to think of anything that makes for a more vibrant community and liveable streets than the presence of school children and their families. Never mind that many in Cambridge use bikes, walking, or public transit to move their children around, so increasing the number of students doesn't necessarily mean more cars. And even if it does increase traffic somewhat, it feels a small price to pay to provide a lot more opportunities for young children.	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T089	1/14/2020	Written	<p>I can empathize with concerns about traffic (I have to tackle the Fresh Pond/Alewife every rush hour to get home!). But as with everything, we have to ask ourselves about our priorities. Is avoiding some additional congestion (during limited hours, and staggered during afternoon pickups) more important than giving our kids access to the educational opportunities they deserve and need? When we worry that "there will be too many children in this building," what does that mean for the families whose children we refuse to make room for? Of course, we must do all that we can to minimize the impact on the Tobin's neighbors, but the ultimate priority should be providing our children and families the opportunity for success. We talk often about an achievement gap in our public schools, but what we really have is an opportunity gap. It begins in preschool, and we have the chance to move toward closing it. Let's have the courage to do that, and ensure that all our children have access to a high-quality, affordable, early childhood experience.</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T090	1/14/2020	Written	<p>We know that opposition has been raised because of concerns about traffic and the number of children who would be served at this location. We are dismayed that our neighbors would respond to such an important and innovative project in such a negative way. As with everything, we have to ask ourselves what we want to prioritize. Is congestion during limited hours more important than early childhood education? When we say "there will be too many children in this building," what does that mean for the families whose children we refuse to make room for? Of course, we must do all that we can to address unintended consequences and make sure that we minimize any undesirable community impacts, but the ultimate priority should be providing our children and families with the opportunity for success. We talk often about an achievement gap in our public schools, but what we really have is an opportunity gap. It begins in preschool, and we have the chance to move toward closing it. Let's have the courage to do that, and ensure that all our children have access to a high quality, affordable, early childhood experience.</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T091	1/14/2020	Written	<p>I know that opposition has been raised because of concerns about traffic and the number of children who would be served at this location. As with everything, we have to ask ourselves what we want to prioritize. Is congestion during limited hours more important than early childhood education? When we say "there will be too many children in this building," what does that mean for the families whose children we refuse to make room for? Of course, we must do all that we can to address unintended consequences and make sure that we minimize impact on abutters, but the ultimate priority should be providing our children and families with the opportunity for success. We talk often about an achievement gap in our public schools, but what we really have is an opportunity gap. It begins in preschool, and we have the chance to move toward closing it. Let's have the courage to do that, and ensure that all our children have access to a high quality, affordable, early childhood experience.</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T092	1/14/2020	Written	<p>We know that opposition has been raised because of concerns about traffic and the number of children who would be served at this location. As with everything, we have to ask ourselves what we want to prioritize. Is congestion during limited hours more important than early childhood education? When we say "there will be too many children in this building," what does that mean for the families whose children we refuse to make room for? Of course, we must do all that we can to address unintended consequences and make sure that we minimize impact on abutters, but the ultimate priority should be providing our children and families with the opportunity for success. We talk often about an achievement gap in our public schools, but what we really have is an opportunity gap. It begins in preschool, and we have the chance to move toward closing it. Let's have the courage to do that and ensure that all our children have access to a high quality, affordable, early childhood experience.</p>	
T093	1/14/2020	Written	<p>I am a parent of two students at Tobin Montessori School. My oldest has attended Tobin since 2014 and I worked at the school in the three-year-old program a few years back. I wanted to share my feedback before the meeting on Thursday: 1. Parking - the design options provide 52 parking spots. How many parking spots does the current lot have? If there are double the number of students at this site, will there be double the number of staff? I think it is important to provide parking for all staff members. It is great to encourage use of public transportation and bike paths for those who live nearby, but most of the staff commute from well beyond Cambridge. (cont. D130)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T094	1/14/2020	Written	Of the options presented, I think the Wings option looks best if available parking can be increased.	
T095	1/14/2020	Written	The purpose of this email is to convey my thoughts and suggestions regarding the Tobin Montessori/VLUS reconstruction project. I plan on attending the upcoming meeting on Thursday, 1/16, but also wanted to submit something in writing. I am a parent of two children in the Tobin Montessori, a 3rd grader and and a Junior Kindergarten student. Our family has been a part of this wonderful school community for approximately four-and-a-half years. While I appreciate the need to renovate/reconstruct the current space, it is extremely important to me as a parent that the core of the school remain intact, namely that the current teachers and administrators are not forced out due to the inability to commute and park at the new location. (cont. T96)	
T096	1/14/2020	Written	I have spoken with many teachers and parents and it is apparent that neither of the three current layout options will be able to accommodate teacher parking. Have you taken a poll of the current staff to see who commutes from outside of the city and how they get to Tobin? This is extremely important and should be highly prioritized as most teachers do not live in Cambridge or live in areas accessible to Cambridge by public transportation. I have heard that recent responses to this concern have been that the teachers will be expected to commute via public transportation - this should not be an expectation of our teachers as many of them have families of their own and cannot be expected to add an additional commuting time which in turn may add early and late child care expenses for them. (cont. D132)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T097	1/14/2020	Written	I am writing to give feedback on the design plans for the upcoming Tobin/VLUS building project as a parent and a lifelong Cambridge resident. I myself attended Tobin as a child and know that the building and campus is in desperate need of an overhaul. I have 2 children in Tobin and 1 in VLUS. What's most important to me is that our staff is happy. Our excellent Montessori teachers come from all over and parking is incredibly important for this staff. Sure, in a perfect world we'd all take public transit, but most of our teaching staff are parents themselves and our unreliable and broken T would add hours to their commutes. To assume people don't need parking, or that we don't need extra parking, is ridiculous to me. (cont. D135)	
T098	1/15/2020	Written	I know this is going to bring a lot of congestion to the already busy Fresh Pond rotaries with a Concord Ave entrance. I think that point needs to be seriously reconsidered.	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T099	1/14/2020	Written	I know that opposition has been raised because of concerns about traffic and the number of children who would be served at this location. As with everything, we have to ask ourselves what we want to prioritize. Is congestion during limited hours more important than early childhood education? When we say "there will be too many children in this building," what does that mean for the families whose children we refuse to make room for? Of course, we must do all that we can to address unintended consequences and make sure that we minimize impact on abutters, but the ultimate priority should be providing our children and families with the opportunity for success. We talk often about an achievement gap in our public schools, but what we really have is an opportunity gap. It begins in preschool, and we have the chance to move toward closing it. Let's have the courage to do that, and ensure that all our children have access to a high quality, affordable, early childhood experience.	
T100	1/15/2020	Written	1) Parking spaces for teachers as otherwise they have to commute hour(s) via public to be at the school affecting their quality of life. I hate parking lots, but with fresh pond nearby and other green spaces it's important for our teachers to be able not have the stress of either HOURS commute or scrambling to find parking (in a place they won't have parking permits) (cont.D139)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T101	1/15/2020	Written	In particular, for families who entered the lottery this year expecting to be able to drop off their child at the Longfellow school site on Broadway, it will be a significant hardship to begin the year at the old school, which is in the complete opposite direction for traffic and commute. I hope that this will be strongly considered, as 3-year-olds are the only children ineligible to ride the bus. (cont. T102)	
T102	1/15/2020	Written	I know that opposition has been raised because of concerns about traffic and the number of children who would be served at this location. I hope that the city recognizes that investing in early childhood education is an investment that will bear fruit for all in the community.	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
T103	1/16/2020	Written	<p>I know that opposition has been raised because of concerns about traffic and the number of children who would be served at this location. As with everything, we have to ask ourselves what we want to prioritize. Is congestion during limited hours more important than early childhood education? When we say "there will be too many children in this building," what does that mean for the families whose children we refuse to make room for? Of course, we must do all that we can to address unintended consequences and make sure that we minimize impact on abutters, but the ultimate priority should be providing our children and families with the opportunity for success. We talk often about an achievement gap in our public schools, but what we really have is an opportunity gap. It begins in preschool, and we have the chance to move toward closing it. Let's have the courage to do that, and ensure that all our children have access to a high quality, affordable, early childhood experience.</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
C01	#N/A	Open Comment	I have a question about costs, the term is missing from the word cloud, is the total budget \$250 million?	The word cloud reflects input from the previous community meeting.
C02	11/16/2019	Written	BUDGET? Does the present budget take into account rehousing the entire neighborhood to protect them from blast damage during destruction of the present concrete building, followed by repairs to their homes? :)	If the existing building is demolished, there will be no "blasting".
C03	11/16/2019	Written	TRANSITIONAL IMPACT – SWING SPACE: Is the plan to keep at least some of the existing school going during construction? The third option, Pavilion, overlaps about half of the existing school, while the other two just replace the gym and playgrounds behind it. But construction is noisy and dangerous in any case. Is swing space elsewhere available to hold the individual components of the existing school throughout construction? Would completely abandoning the site speed up the construction schedule?	Both schools will be relocated to a swing space for the duration of construction.
C04	11/13/2019	Post-it	You need to come and talk to Cpl Burns, Alpine, Concord neighbors	Noted
C05	11/13/2019	Open Comment	We have already put up with years of construction projects and don't want to deal with more.	Noted
C06	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Sound studies are not done throughout site – need to think about neighbors on the Concord side – need one near Armory and bakery	Noted
C07	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Why didn't we do an acoustical analysis near the armory or more along Concord Avenue?	The sites were selected to be close to abutting neighbors
C08	11/13/2019	Post-it	Why didn't we do an acoustical analysis near the armory or more along Concord Avenue?	Once a preferred option is selected and the design moves into the next phase more analysis will be conducted
C09	11/25/2019	Teacher Workshop	Is the Reno/Add an actual renovation?	Yes - the main structure would be the only consistently remaining element

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
C10	11/27/2019	Written	<p>A few comments about the recent meeting. I went to the soil management group with CDM and the contractor. They indicated that Fuss and O'Neil is part of the team. What exactly is their role?</p> <p>As the entire site is an old clay pit filled with a variety of materials beneath a thin fill layer, my comments pertain to all three alternatives. I would like to learn more about how the structures will be protected from methane gas, and volatile organic compounds. Also the soil management procedures need to be fully fleshed out including how asbestos contaminated soil will be managed. Will the City Ordinance concerning managing Soil on asbestos contaminated sites be waived for this project?</p> <p>Results of soil precharacterization for excavated materials need to be shared, as well as the plans for routing the trucks for loading and the routes for driving thru the neighborhood. There will be many trucks involved in this process. I understand that details may not yet be available, but they are very important.</p>	<p>Fuss and O'Neil is responsible for evaluating the hazardous materials of the existing building.</p> <p>Management options for the soils and protection of the structure will be evaluated as the design progresses.</p> <p>Information will be shared with the public as it is developed.</p>

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
C11	12/15/2019	Written	The second issue driving the costs is, of course, the site itself, which is associated with serious environmental problems. As a neighboring property, I am deeply concerned about the environmental hazards. While we have been assured by the city and various engineering staff that these challenges can be addressed safely, we remain troubled by the risks. But most importantly, these risks suggest we should be aiming for a smaller and more efficient project, one that disrupts the problematic site to the smallest degree possible. It is not a wise use of public funds to build such an expansive project on this site. (cont. O43)	
C12	1/3/2020	Written	Address prior to any 2020 teardown or construction through formal Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection/MA DEP and US Environmental Protection/EPA site analyses, the century-long environmental toxic-waste hazards on the Tobin-Vassal Lane building parcel. This has never been undertaken thoroughly or definitively by the city of Cambridge, the parcel's owner since 1927. The City of Cambridge acquired the 1840s-1905 clay-pit extraction site of Tobin/Vassal Lane parcel used by a major environmental polluter (1980s-2000s EPA Superfund database) along with the 50 acres of today's Danehy Park, which, like the parcel, also had been a decades-long landfill for this city.*** Sample hazardous-waste entries on the school and recreational parcel follow. Go here http://bairdmedia.net/tobin/#all-hazards-cambridge to see a documented timeline citing public documents on the 1972-built John H. Tobin school building in particular and its complete hazardous waste issues. (cont. C13)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
C13	1/3/2020	Written	<p>In 1985 NUS Corp (a Haliburton Corporation) did a health risk assessment at the Tobin School to determine if the landfill under the building & grounds contained materials only from residential dumping [usual city landfill], or also from dumping of hazardous materials by local chemical and industrial manufacturers, including W. R. Grace & Co., subject of 1980s A Civil Action NF book by Jonathan Harr, PBS documentaries, and dramatic film by same title starring John Travolta & Robert Duvall— all based on a Woburn, MA, lawsuit, Anne Anderson, et al. v. W.R. Grace and Beatrice Foods: 1986</p> <p>[https://law.seattleu.edu/centers-and-institutes/films-for-justice-institute/lessons-from-woburn/about-the-case/]. The Superfund branch of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA[23.7]) reviewed the assessment and determined that “no further remedial action” was necessary. The Tobin School is not classified as a “Superfund” site (i.e. a hazard site that is uncontrolled or abandoned)[24], and is not on the “National Priorities List” of highly toxic sites requiring long-term cleanup,[25] but is listed in the EPA’s Superfund database because it was assessed.[26] In 1987 the Tobin School site was included on a list of sites suspected, but not confirmed, of being contaminated by hazardous waste. The list was issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering to comply with a 1986 Massachusetts referendum on toxic waste.[30] (cont. C14)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
C14	1/3/2020	Written	<p>In 1990 a group of parents of children at the Tobin School organized themselves around concerns that the school had “sick building syndrome”[32], and was making their children sick with fatigue, respiratory conditions, asthma, and other illnesses.[33] In October 1991 Geotechnical Engineers Inc (GEI) was hired to test for gases in the soil beneath the crawlspaces of the Tobin School. In November they notified the Cambridge Public School Department that the tests showed elevated levels of methane and VOCs in the soil beneath the [Tobin building’s] crawlspaces. Levels in the soil below the east crawlspace were “significant”. As required by law, the Cambridge Public School Department (CPSD) directed GEI to notify the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) of a “release or potential threat of release of hazardous materials.”[38] NOTE: "Volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, are gases that are emitted into the air from products or processes. Some are harmful by themselves, including some that cause cancer. In addition, they can react with other gases and form other air pollutants after they are in the air." Breathing VOCs can irritate the eyes, nose and throat, can cause difficulty breathing and nausea, and can damage the central nervous system as well as other organs. Some VOCs can cause cancer. Not all VOCs have all these health effects, though many have several." — https://www.lung.org (cont. C15)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
C15	1/3/2020	Written	<p>In 1998 the firm Camp Dresser & McKee/CDM was hired to sample and analyze the soil and groundwater of the Tobin School grounds, playground, and playing fields.[56] CDM found two contaminated “hot spots” in the top three feet of soil: a PAH (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon[56.5]) hot spot and a lead hot spot. Total contaminated area was about 3,300 sq feet.[57] CDM found elevated lead in some of the ground water samples, and also determined that there was minimal groundwater migration (movement) beneath the site.[58] CDM stated that contaminants found in the soil and groundwater were consistent with the landfilling history of the former clay pit. CDM stated that how deep the contamination goes down into the Tobin site soil is unknown.[63] CDM stated that if the City wanted to remove all contaminated soil at the site, they would have to excavate the former clay pit/landfill completely. —</p> <p>http://bairdmedia.net/tobin/#all-hazards-cambridge (cont. C16)</p>	
C16	1/3/2020	Written	<p>This year, 2020, is the city’s opportunity to banish for once and for all any traces of toxic and hazardous waste on this school and playground/sports parcel as well as to continue the 1938-established Open Space as a 21st-century resource for use by city residents and visitors.</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
C17	1/14/2020	Written	<p>I want to register my support for the renovations of the Tobin school. I have heard tremendously positive things about the Tobin Montessori program, and was elated when we found out that my son is high on the waitlist and may be able to attend the three-year-old program. However, when I went to visit the school, I was appalled at the state of the building. I did not expect the building to be on the list of concerns I might have about my son's education, but it was the only concern I had. The building seems unsafe, and a very poor learning and working environment. I was shocked to find myself wondering if it is a good idea to send my son to this free, highly regarded program. I was relieved to learn that the building will be renovated. I understand that there are concerns about how to manage the impact on the surrounding area, but I trust that these concerns can be addressed. This building must be renovated in the very near future, and delays mean prolonging the period of time students and faculty are spending in an unlivable environment. We have to prioritize the impact on the children.</p>	
C18	1/14/2020	Written	<p>I also know that residents in the neighborhood are upset about more construction. It's valid and should be heard, but their voices should not be louder than any other resident has been allowed for the other two school buildings. We've been hearing that this could cause a delay in construction and does that mean our kids will sit in less-than ideal swing space while nothing happens on the Vassal Lane campus? I truly hope that this project can either move forward as we've been told or if it goes on hold, our children can remain in the Tobin/VLUS building for another school year.</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
C19	1/15/2020	Written	I am writing in support of the Tobin School/VLUS project. Specifically, I would like to advocate for the following: 1. Resolving the school design debate as soon as possible so that construction may begin on schedule (cont. C19)	
C20	1/15/2020	Written	2. Conducting thorough environmental testing and mitigation to address concerns of toxic contamination from the underlying landfill (cont. D141)	
C21	1/15/2020	Written	Simultaneously, I hope that the review process with regard to environmental concerns from the potentially toxic landfill on the site will be thoroughly and skillfully addressed, and that the debate over the project construction will not derail the project from ever beginning at all. (cont. T101)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
S01	11/13/2019	Post-it	Are we able to achieve the same natural light levels w/ renovation?	Given the existing geometry, this will be difficult to achieve.
S02	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Site lighting for after hours – unnecessary lighting is an issue	Noted
S03	11/13/2019	Post-it	Transit Options	Noted
S04	11/13/2019	Post-it	Storm water	All 3 options are looking the beginning stages of the resilient design and have taken stormwater into consideration.
S05	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Transit options to reduce cars to site storm water. Traffic is already bad on Concord and this is going to make it worse. My tenant is measuring CO2 in his apartment, right across the street from the site and I'm worried he will leave.	Noted
S06	11/13/2019	Open Comment	We will kill the trees.	The design team understands the importance of the existing trees and will make every attempt to preserve them.
S07	11/13/2019	Post-it	With increase in building mass, what is the heat island effect on the neighborhood!	Will study in design phase. The team is looking at both building and site aspects. The roof of the building will have a high solar reflectance to reduce heat island effect.
S08	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Reduce asphalt	Noted
S09	11/13/2019	Post-it	Reduce Asphalt	Noted
S10	11/13/2019	Post-it	Pervious Paving	To be considered in design phases
S11	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Evacuation during a storm event? It's great to make sure the building is elevated, but how do we get kids out or people in if there is a flood?	Aim is to be above 10 year 2070 storm, with recovery for 100 year 2070 storm. Will continue to study as the design develops.
S12	11/13/2019	Post-it	Evacuation during an storm event?	Will study as design develops
S13	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Has there been any consideration to the fact that the existing building is an award winner with historical significance?	Yes. We are aware that the building was designed by Pietro Belluschi.

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
S14	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Why is there so much parking? Can it be more environmentally friendly if the existing building is preserved?	Parking is per City requirements. Parking will be as tight as possible, but there are demands for school staff and services. Current building has a lot of challenges - one size fits all classrooms. New buildings can outperform existing facilities as previously shown with MLK. Existing would require new window configurations. The building has a large surface area and is not ideally aligned for passive solar performance.
S15	11/25/2019	Written	Could/will the garage be designed to provide additional flood storage?	
S16	11/25/2019	Written	If there is surface parking, can solar panels be placed on it for shade (like Newton has done?)	This is being considered and may be required to meet Net Zero Energy goals.
S17	11/25/2019	Written	Is the stormwater storage tank part of the \$250M budget? How many square feet is it (depth vs breadth). What else accounts for the big increase in cost -- what part of the budget is the soil remediation and ground water handling (slurry walls)?	
S18	11/25/2019	Written	What other resiliency elements are planned? Green infrastructure looks like an afterthought -- in Europe, parks are designed to hold flood water. Is this complex being designed as a climate resiliency center as well?	Bioswales and rain gardens are planned to collect and control and on-site and neighborhood stormwater. In addition we are considering both green and blue roofs. See response to item P32 to guide to their proposed location.
S19	11/26/2019	Written	What is the environmental impact ... both during construction and operation of the facility	Environmental impacts will be considered and shared as the design progresses. Current goals are to achieve LEED Gold certification and be a Net Zero Emissions facility. The design is also currently aiming to be Net Zero Energy.
S20	11/26/2019	Written	Use of alternative energy sources	The project will be designed as a Net Zero Emissions building and all alternative energy sources are being evaluated.

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
S21	12/2/2019	Written	Beyond a large stormwater tank to provide enhanced grey infrastructure, the presentation made no mention of any other resiliency features. I would like to see additional green infrastructure features (rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs) incorporated into the design.	See response to item S18
S22	12/31/2019	Written	1) I am concerned about the future flood risk in our neighborhood and particularly at the Tobin School. Based on 10 year old 2010 FEMA maps, the school and park were in a 500 year flood zone, yet the site is projected to be in a 10 year flood area by 2070. A more appropriate approach to flood risk is to think about the risk of flooding over several years. For example, in a 100 year flood zone, over a 30 year period the risk of flooding is 26%. By 2070, the risk that the Tobin would flood during a student's 3 years in middle school would also be 26%. (cont. S23)	
S23	12/31/2019	Written	I ran across an interesting Pew Trust report about schools in flood zones: https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2017/08/flooding-threatens-public-schools-across-the-country Their Recommendations: "requirements for flood insurance should be enforced to protect federal investments." (How will Cambridge protect its investment?) "When communities leverage federal funds to rebuild or repair damaged infrastructure, these investments must account for future risk. Where feasible, they should consider relocating schools out of flood-prone areas." (cont. S24)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
S24	12/31/2019	Written	Below I'll paste a screenshot from the 2017 report. It indicates that in Middlesex County of 379 schools, 8 are in a FEMA flood zone, or 2% of all schools. That makes the Tobin one of just 8 schools in our county sitting in a flood zone. These questions bring me to question placing so many preschool students at the Tobin School site. It looks like 8 classrooms or 160 students in the preK will be added to the Tobin. Based on the universal preK study, Cambridge needs a total of 39 preK classrooms now, so this proposal places 20% of the preK classrooms in a flood zone. (cont. S25)	
S25	12/31/2019	Written	2) Has there been an analysis about the preK students' geographic locations and transportation given that they will not be riding a school bus? (cont. S26)	
S26	12/31/2019	Written	3) Given the flood risk, if anything, the paved footprint of the building and infrastructure should be reduced, and not increased. (cont. S27)	
S27	12/31/2019	Written	4) Are there more beneficial, natural approaches to storm risk reduction rather than ground disruption and installation of a costly, carbonemitting concrete rainwater storage tank? Exactly what are environmental and financial costs and benefits to this proposed underground tank?	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
S28	12/31/2019	Written	Our city is growing increasingly crowded. Our tree canopy has shrunk significantly. Trees and green infrastructure mitigate flooding and extreme heat -- the two consequences of a warming climate that Cambridge will face. More stories on a building to accommodate a larger student population and allowing for more thoughtfully landscaped green space is a more sustainable solution than eliminating the Tobin Recreational Park. I urge you to maintain the Tobin Recreational Park, an invaluable community asset of 3.4 acres of open green space	
S29	1/14/2020	Written	5. Natural light as much as possible (as artificial light can distract and stress children with sensory processing disorders) (cont. D120)	
S30	1/14/2020	Written	4. Natural light in classrooms as much as possible and direct access to patio/green space from Children's House classrooms (3yrs-Kindergarten). Many of these classrooms venture out despite the weather, but it would be wonderful to have an area of patio that is covered to make this a little easier on rainy days. (cont. O64)	
S31	1/16/2020	Written	Unfortunately, i will not be able to attend tomorrow's meeting about this project, but I am wondering if anyone else looking at it feels as I do that it would be a wonderful opportunity for green roofs. I spent so many wonderful years watching kids play baseball on one or another of the three baseball fields, and would love to see the city be able to keep this capacity and mixed ages through creative design.	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
S32	1/16/2020	Written	I agree that the VLUS project seems like a great option for a green roof. Maybe something like the High Line in NYC and —daring to dream—perhaps also have community garden space where students can grow and bring home produce? Maybe have some bees, too?	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O01	11/13/2019	Post-it	Look into armory land to "Unlock" site	Noted
O02	11/13/2019	Post-it	The National Guard space is a tremendous waste of space. Can we take that space to maximize the school design efficiently & relocate them to another space in Cambridge.	Noted
O03	11/13/2019	Post-it	The way you speak sounds like you have preference for houses on Vassal Lane	This is not the intent. The team has no preference and evaluates all neighborhood and site conditions objectively.
O04	11/13/2019	Post-it	Need 2 look at entire Community not just Tobin School design 4 not enough transparency to process...no input on design from teachers	Input from teachers is being sought, along with other groups.
O05	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Who decides the preferred option and describe the process? What if we don't like any of the designs	The City Manager will decide on the final option, after consultation with City Council and School Department. Want a solution that all believe is a good solution
O06	11/13/2019	Open Comment	What is the timeline – can it be pushed out	September of 2024 is current schedule and is believed to be achievable
O07	11/13/2019	Post-it	Another Public Meeting?	Yes. A future meeting will be scheduled.
O08	11/13/2019	Post-it	Want a second big meeting to regroup & discuss what happened in Break Out Groups	See response to item O7
O09	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Lots of information, but there's no other public meetings scheduled before a preferred option is decided - how will the public know where their input is going and see the developments and how the eventual decision is made? We need another meeting to discuss what we heard during the small group breakouts because we have no chance ot reflect on it together and no understanding of how we are all going to hear it	See response to item O7

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O10	11/13/2019	Post-it	Comments from somewhat important POV (neighbor, not a parent of a future student): - I hope the preferences of the primary stakeholders. - the educators and their constituents- are given more weight than the neighbors! Easy for us to form opinions based on exterior models, but I'd think its more important to evaluate the designs from the interior features and how they enhance the school experience.	The team intends to hear from as many stakeholders as possible.
O11	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Hard to see transparency when this is the first and last design meeting - process is very flawed	Future meetings to gather community input will be scheduled in each design phase. Another community meeting will be scheduled in January to review 3 options with comments received before a preferred option is selected.
O12	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Can audience see how the conceptual ideas come together before final decision? There doesn't seem to be enough information to answer all the question currently. Can we give the information back to the community to help clarify how final decisions have been made	In addition to community meetings, information will be posted on the project website.
O13	11/13/2019	Open Comment	It's hard to piece how the design came together and how programming was laid out	
O14	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Bigger buildings have larger requirements that aren't being fulfilled at other schools – an example being not enough janitorial staff	Noted
O15	11/13/2019	Open Comment	What went well and what didn't go well with previous schools	The team is reviewing input about the other schools and incorporating lessons learned
O16	11/13/2019	Open Comment	Can public have tours of the other schools being compared to this one?	Yes, this can be arranged.
O17	11/13/2019	Post-it	Please put wooden option models in public space.	Design team is utilizing the models for design development, but will be present at the next community meeting. Photos can be available online

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O18	11/16/2019	Written	Vassal school ends up on Concord Avenue, and Tobin on Vassal. Just sayin' Swap names??	Noted
O19	11/13/2019	Post-it	Will you change the name of the school if you move it to Vassal Lane	
O20	11/13/2019	Post-it	Thanks! :)	Thanks to you
O21	11/25/2019	Teacher Workshop	Explain the voting in January	City manager will decide based on options and feedback. The date of the decision has not been finalized
O22	11/25/2019	Teacher Workshop	What happens to the feedback	Feedback is being collected and posted online, along with responses from the design team and the city. All feedback will be considered in decision-making process.
O23	11/26/2019	Written	<p>I am writing as a long time resident of Cambridge with concerns about the new school building that will abut my property/home. I have been in Cambridge for a long time, worked as a teacher in the public schools, and sent both of my kids to Tobin and Rindge. I am looking forward to having a new building for the students who now attend the Tobin Montessori and Vassal Lane Upper School.</p> <p>Residents nearby the planned building have concerns about providing input to include ideas from people who have lived here for years. I fell most strongly about these issues:</p>	See items D89, P43, T58, S19, and S20 for issues and responses

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O24	11/26/2019	Written	<p>There has been a lack of transparency and willingness to engage the residents in meaningful discussion of the plans, in spite of planning by the City and the hiring of architects over 2 years ago. I was told by one facilitator in a 'break-out group' on November 13 that a general question/answer period (which would have been my preference after the architects' presentation) 'would last for over 8 hours'. The numbers of attendees was not excessively large at the meeting in the auditorium and the 'break out group' materials could have been laid out on the stage. My perception was that the decisions about the project were being made regardless of what the neighbors input might be with only an illusions of inclusion. I am now requesting a meeting without breakout groups for abutters now that the tight timeline for final decisions has been revealed</p>	<p>No decisions have been made. The City has decided to schedule an additional community meeting to share feedback received thus far and a have a discussion as a group before any decisions are made.</p> <p>Please note that the Feasibility Study is the "discovery" phase of a project where a general direction agreed upon but the design is still flexible. There will be many more opportunities for community input as the design progresses.</p>
O25	12/6/2019	Written	<p>I want to thank the City and School staff, as well as the architects from Perkins Eastman, for the special presentation of the Tobin Montessori/VLUS building proposals to the City Council and School Committee at Monday evening's roundtable discussion. This was an important component to a critical community process, and it was informative for all who attended.</p>	<p>Thank you</p>

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O26	12/6/2019	Written	As a City, we are proposing to spend close to a quarter of a billion dollars on this project, we should take the time to look at this project in relation to other goals of the city and have a more holistic process to ensure a thoughtful outcome that meets the need of the neighborhood and the City. I look forward to City staff and Perkins Eastman continuing to engage with the neighborhood, reviewing feedback from the community as well as the feedback they received on Monday night, and updating the options accordingly.	
O27	12/6/2019	Written	Our family has lived on Alpine Street for more than 20 years. Our home here is the first and only house we've ever owned. Both our sons graduated from Cambridge Rindge and Latin. We love our public school system and our neighborhood. We want what's best for all the kids in Cambridge. That said, our family is very worried about what we've seen unfold so far with the proposed new Tobin/VLUS. From our perspective, the process has been rushed, differing points of view in the community aren't being listened to and the neighborhood hasn't been included in the process. We're very concerned that the end result will jam too many programs for our community's kids into too small a place. Based on the process so far, we don't think the way we're headed will work out best for any of the stakeholders.	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O28	12/6/2019	Written	The two community meetings (not three as some have suggested have happened) have gone out of their way to minimize group discussion. Officials offer presentations and then neighbors are sent to various small classrooms so that group concerns can't be discussed together. One neighbor present at the November meeting described the breakout rooms as a "divide and conquer" strategy. Perhaps it wasn't intentional, but we felt shut out.	
O29	12/6/2019	Written	No copies of the three new building proposals were available for those in attendance at community meetings. When I asked for paper copies, someone on the architectural staff said, "I was going to make them, but I forgot." The proposal involves a quarter of a billion dollars in tax payer money. Someone could have made and distributed copies of the plans for the people who live here, especially for elderly neighbors who don't go online.	
O30	12/6/2019	Written	Neighbors tried to get copies of the proposals in the days leading up to the Nov. 13th meeting. We were told they were "still being worked on." But when we arrived at the community meeting, 3-D scale models had been prepared. How could those have been made if the plans weren't finalized until just before the meeting? Why not distribute the proposals freely - door-to-door - so everyone knows what is planned for their neighborhood for the next few years?	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O31	12/6/2019	Written	These may seem like small matters, but for many of us they represent the difference between a neighborhood where people care a lot about one another, and a top-down, your-voice-doesn't count-much approach. So here on Alpine Street, we're all looking forward to an actual dialogue about the key issues. We'd like to request another community meeting, as well as a gathering with all Tobin abutters, city staff and architects. This is going to be a lengthy process. We're all in it for the long haul. Our goal - and yours too I'm sure - is what's best for the kids and the community. Here's hoping we can all work together.	Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us. We are looking forward to this collaboration as well.
O32	12/8/2019	Written	My impression was that people weren't very happy with any of the three plans. Some felt that the plans were designed in secret and that even the teachers didn't have input.	
O33	12/8/2019	Written	The architects had many agendas, such as three physical buildings that had to have their own identities; sustainability; resiliency; a common area for the community; drop off places for student: and be architecturally appealing. Too many cooks spoiling the broth. But the agendas the architects didn't seem to take seriously enough was the realities and needs of the community. [We] live on Concord Ave across from the Little League field. From what we hear, the neighborhood cares about traffic and green.	
O34	12/14/2019	Written	I am writing as a long-time resident of Alpine Street, a parent to one CRLS graduate and one current senior, and an abutter to the Tobin/VLUS. I am looking forward to seeing a thoughtful, healthy and safe new school built on this site. That said, none of the currently proposed options meet these criteria. (cont. P61)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O35	12/14/2019	Written	The process to date has not been inclusive of the community. Supposedly there were 70 stakeholder meetings, but abutters and elected officials were never included as stakeholders. To date, there have been only three meetings to which the neighbors were invited. The first meeting was purely information sharing, the April meeting gathered comments (those comments were not actually addressed), and then in November, three plans were presented based on the assumption of a doubled school population (which had never been mentioned at any of the earlier meetings). (cont. D099)	
O36	12/14/2019	Written	I urge you to reconsider the many options before you before rushing to choose a design by the end of January. This is a project that will spend a quarter of a billion dollars of the school budget and take four to five years to complete – let’s make the right choice for the citizens of Cambridge.	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O37	12/15/2019	Written	<p>Given the thoughts related above I would also like to take this opportunity to raise two points regarding the temporary relocation to the Broadway location. Before doing so, I applaud the City for undergoing some level of redesign and construction of the Broadway space to accommodate both the culture and curriculum of Tobin Montessori. That said, my two points are as follows: The current outdoor play space at the Broadway location is truly deficient, both in the quality of outside play and access from the classrooms. I encourage the City to consider using at least part of the expansive central courtyard to introduce a modern and age appropriate play area. Even without a complete playground renovation, play areas that are challenging both physically and mentally, especially within the context of a Montessori education, are vital and should not be overlooked. Our children should not have substandard access to outdoor play during a vitally formative period of their development. Our City has both the resources and creativity to offer a better solution. The new playground at Amigos is proof of this. (cont. O38)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O38	12/15/2019	Written	<p>I would like to encourage the City to find a reasonable and sane solution to the issue of staff and faculty parking during the construction period. It has taken many years to attract and retain the excellent faculty and staff at Tobin and VLUS. I understand the challenges of urban school districts and fully support the push to promote public transit and a city less dependent on automobiles, but this is a goal that requires a gradual shift and broader support. Many of the faculty and staff at Tobin/VLUS commute from some distance and work, in part, in North Cambridge because they are able to easily travel there. Please consider offering parking, subsidized parking, or temporary resident stickers to the faculty and staff during the construction period so that we can be sure to retain the qualified and committed professional community who support our children. (cont. O39)</p>	
O39	12/15/2019	Written	<p>Please pass on my comments as appropriate and thank you and all of the city employees for working to provide excellent education to our children.</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O40	12/15/2019	Written	<p>I have lived on Vassal Lane for 40+ years. I abut the Tobin School. I support much of what Ann Robbart stated in her recent email summarizing concerns. Item D below especially resonates with me. The Fresh Pong Parkway side of the lot has 0 residential abutters, while Alpine Street is 100% residential. Focusing the development and bus traffic on Alpine is a bad idea for abutters. D) Developing the best transporation system to all schools as well as within the neighborhood. A smaller footprint, even if taller, placed nearest the conrner by Fresh Pong Parkway and Vassal Lane will preserve as much of the playgrounds and fields as possible, it also can mean less hazardous waste disturbed, and will affect abutters, including those on Vassal, the least. Please also limit car traffic as much as possible - viz., please do not add an access road behind Alpine St., and do not create more drop-off and pick-up spots without... Thank you for your consideration</p>	
O41	12/15/2019	Written	<p>I am a parent to three children in the Cambridge public schools, including a high school junior, a 7th grader at VLUS, and a 3rd grader at Graham and Parks. Our family also lives on Alpine Street. We are therefore directly affected by the planned Tobin/VLUS renovation project in multiple ways, both as parents and neighbors. We support the need to renovate the existing school and improve the educational infrastructure for the Tobin/VLUS community. We also support doing so in a manner that assures that similar such infrastructure upgrades are available to children across the whole city, and strongly urge the city to reconsider its current approach to the renovation project. (cont. O42)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O42	12/15/2019	Written	<p>I believe others in the community have already written to you about their concerns regarding limited open space reflected in the current design options, as well as the need to conduct more thorough traffic studies. While we share these concerns, I would like to focus my comments on the size and cost of the project, which I believe will have detrimental spillover effects for many years to come. The project is currently planned to take 4 years and require investment of a staggering \$250 million. This figure far outstrips any of the estimates provided during the innovation agenda discussions. While the city may be able to borrow such funds at this point in time, it will limit its future ability to fund necessary investments in other schools, such as the Rindge Avenue Upper Campus, the schools currently being used as swing spaces, the Graham and Parks, and others. The future growth of the CPS system will depend on our ability to provide high quality facilities city-wide, and I have seen absolutely no discussion in the current process about how the city's capital budget will be affected. Has the city done any work to plan a longterm capital budget that can address the needs of all schools? (cont. O45)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O43	12/15/2019	Written	<p>It is our hope that the city will reconsider its current approach to the Tobin/VLUS renovation and make significant changes to the current design options. We should consider alternatives for some of the program expansions currently planned, and have a serious discussion about the desired size of the upper school. A more modest project would still provide a significant and much needed upgrade for the school community. It would also address many of the community concerns raised to date, reduce the project cost and timeline, and facilitate a more equitable distribution of the city's resources.</p>	
O44	12/17/2019	Written	<p>Hi, I have been following the Tobin/Vassal discussions. I live very close to the school, 203 Lake View. I love having the school nearby; we love watching the play on the fields. A school makes a community feel so alive, and with a future. (cont. D106)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O45	12/15/2019	Written	Two key issues contribute to size and cost of the Tobin/VLUS project as currently planned. First, the school is planned to nearly double in size, a combination of hosting new programs that are currently not part of the school, along with a 50% growth in the number of students at VLUS. It should be noted that the growth in VLUS contradicts promises made regarding school and cohorts sizes when the innovation agenda was passed. The growth in number of students is the primary driver of cost and size, and was never discussed publicly prior to the recent community meetings. I don't believe the school committee or the city council ever discussed this issue in the open. It was essentially decided behind closed doors, and given to the design team as a key parameter for their various plans. The size and mix of student populations have been explained in the community meetings as imposing a host of challenges that necessitated the expansive plans. (cont. C11)	
O46	12/15/2019	Written	I have attended the two of the meetings for the Tobin VLUS Project. The first meeting never told us about losing our community resource...aka the green space, and fields. I was beyond shocked to find out in the past meeting that not only are they not included in the plan, but after finally getting a look at the plan, we then need to decide on these plans by December ! The process is very flawed ! The fields are a resource for the entire city and neighborhoods ! We need more green space not less. Once lost we can never get it back ! (cont. D106)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O47	12/15/2019	Written	These 3 options are not enough nor is the time table. This process was not community friendly at all. They kept saying the Campus of the school... but this area is far more than just the schools ! It is the neighborhood and the community ! No other updated school has lost any green space or fields. I have looked at the recent King Open school. It is a beautiful building. My concern is that we did not consider more function of a Elementary school or middle school building ! There is a lot of glass, large halls, Touch screens, and wasted space. We need more storage and usable space. We need to learn from each school! (cont. O48)	
O48	12/15/2019	Written	I urge you all to look and slow down this process. I urge you to make the project team and architects develop more creative plans which take in the flow and the function of what we really need in this school. Perhaps more floors, and still keep the school entrances separate, which seems to be a big push from the principals. (cont. P63)	
O49	12/15/2019	Written	AS does the community ! I would be happy to discuss further, and look forward to the next meetings! But please slow this train down, and take in more community input, and concerns into the plan.	
O50	12/29/2019	Written	Personally, I don't see any improvement or thoughtful considerations for traffic, school children, those homeowners on Alpine Street living adjacent to Callahan Park or Green Space in any of these three plans. I am opposed to all three.	
O51	12/29/2019	Written	Also, as I've heard from many friends and neighbors many of whom are teachers, we don't need to win any architectural awards, just a school that works to educate our kids and has room on the site for all the neighbors.	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O52	12/30/2019	Written	<p>Our family has lived across the street from the Tobin School for the last 20 years. We would like to express some concerns regarding the proposed design options. Our chief concern is the dramatic increase in program requirements and student count, which appears to be out of proportion to increases elsewhere in the city and out of proportion with the design criteria presented to the community earlier in the process. These increased program requirements are driving the following concerns about the proposed changes to the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overreaching school and community programming to scale of the site • Loss of green community space and beloved • fields that promote health and recreation (cont. D108) 	
O53	12/30/2019	Written	<p>As we are directly across the street, we have many concerns about the design, construction, outcome and process. We understand that this school is very much in need of thoughtful updating, greening and redesign. We hope that this letter and those of the neighborhood and community at large will be noted at the outset of this design process.</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O54	12/31/2019	Written	<p>We the undersigned representing many youth sports organizations and over 2,000 individual youth participants continue to work in partnership with the city to expand the number of playing fields across Cambridge. Recently, the city began a process to renovate the Vassal Lane-Montessori former Tobin school. The site at Vassal Lane currently hosts three baseball fields for Little League, but the current plans for the new school could eliminate all usable organized-sports field space. The city, always a great supporter of youth sports, has made plans to move Little League to Glacken Field near Fresh Pond. Glacken Field has accommodated girls softball and youth soccer, which will be moved elsewhere. While the shuffling is inconvenient, it belies the real problem: there is already a shortage of recreational field space in Cambridge. (cont. O55)</p>	
O55	12/31/2019	Written	<p>Besides little league baseball, elementary school sports and outdoor play space, these fields have been important resources for unrestricted neighborhood play space as well. In addition, Vassal Lane is one of four middle schools in Cambridge. When middle schools were first discussed there was a commitment to expanded school sports, which rely on those fields. Middle school sports programs are already under-supported and do not coordinate with high school programs or have much instruction or many scheduled competitions. (cont. P74)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O56	1/2/2020	Written	Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts about the Tobin/VLUS renovation. I appreciate that City staff, the school administration, school leaders and consultants have put a good deal of effort into developing potential options. (cont. D109)	
O57	1/13/2020	Written	What is the administrative interface between DHSP and CPSD? As the DHSP pre-K program is under the jurisdiction of a different city department, does this mean that the school plans will have to include separate administrative space for the DHSP pre-school? (cont. O58)	
O58	1/13/2020	Written	Is there an alternative to having separate pre-K programs — in the structure and across the city? Multiple programs mean that there is redundancy in administrative functions. o What might a unified pre-K program look like for the city, programmatically, financially and from a physical plant point of view? Would it give more flexibility to the program? Would a unified program better promote our common goal of equity in education? (cont. O59)	
O59	1/13/2020	Written	Please provide a city-wide context for the Self-Contained programming and needs for the city. o What is the city-wide student population that the district program is intended to serve? o What other schools have self-contained programming? o How were the proposed numbers for Tobin/VLUS schools determined? (cont. O60)	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O60	1/13/2020	Written	<p>Please define what the term “uncap” means with regard to the feeder schools and VLUS. Please provide a detailed explanation of the stated need to uncap the grade level cohort population at VLUS. A premise of the Innovation Agenda was to have a three-classroom limit for each grade level cohort.</p> <p>o Is the uncapping a phenomenon that will occur at other middle schools in the city? (cont O61.)</p>	
O61	1/13/2020	Written	<p>Because of the complicated nature of the topics, we ask that the city provide a written response as well as visuals or graphics that will explain your responses clearly. Juggling flows and numbers in one’s head can be challenging for community members who are not already familiar with your thinking. (cont. O62)</p>	
O62	1/13/2020	Written	<p>Thank you for your willingness to answer the questions and for the time that you spent with the abutters last week. Our intention is to design a school that respects the underlying principal that this is a city park with a school building, protects the amount and integrity of the park and open space that serves the entire city population — including the children who will be attending the schools — and minimizing traffic burdens while providing an exceptional education facility.</p>	
O63	1/14/2020	Written	<p>Please help us support our teachers through this transition. They dedicate their lives to their work, and I, like many families, want to do anything I can to support them.</p>	
O64	1/14/2020	Written	<p>Lastly, I have heard that there is a possibility the project may be delayed. Is there a chance Tobin/VLUS will remain at the current site for another year? When will families and staff know for sure that the project is moving forward? (cont. T94)</p>	

Item	Date	Source	Comment	Response
O65	1/15/2020	Written	I write to express my enthusiastic support for the plans to expand the Tobin School building to include additional preschool seats for Cambridge families. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the 1/16 meeting. (cont. D136)	
O66	1/15/2020	Written	Please help us support our teachers through this transition. They dedicate their lives to their work and we want to do what we can to support them.	
O67	1/16/2020	Written	Would the city be willing to try to negotiate a long term easement for service/delivery access via the Armory's curb cut near the basketball court so all trucks could enter off Concord and access the school site from the rear of Armory lot? The Armory has a second curb cut closer to the rotary that could be restricted to only their vehicles. This would help make Option #2 more feasible by relieving Vassal of the service traffic.	
O68	1/16/2020	Written	While helpful, what's missing is a single-page compare and contrast page that shows a side-by-side summary of the deltas for each proposal. Also helpful would be renderings that show what the proposed buildings would actually look like from the street (not the transparent footprints shown here). Who can help provide these? (I recall asking a similar question sometime last year to whomever originally circulated these renderings).	