

Timestamp	Email Address	What would you like the WCJUSD School Board to keep in mind as they make this decision?	Name	What Town do you live in ?	What is your email address ?
9/25/2024 16:14:57	admberube@gmail.com	Access to high quality education and enrichment of services to students; considering needs of working families and their students	Alena Berube	Calais	admberube@gmail.com
9/25/2024 16:31:07	lilysojourner@gmail.com	Make decisions that are cost effective and make sense for kids. I think the moving of 6th grade could make sense. I don't know that closing the two schools makes sense for younger kids and communities. I wonder if parts of those spaces could be used for other programming, community needs to bring in revenue?	Lily Sojourner	Berlin	Lilysojourner@gmail.com
9/25/2024 17:18:45	andrea.leigh.tucker@gmail.com	Two years ago our family moved with two young children to Vermont. We could not afford to buy in Montpelier or East Montpelier and were drawn to Calais in part because of the community school. What would a closer do to our community and the ability to draw young families to Calais?	Andrea Tucker	Calais	andrea.leigh.tucker@gmail.com
9/25/2024 20:22:15	sharonelbailey@gmail.com	I'd like to see the recording from today as this overlapped with BES open house and that's really a shame!	Sharone Bailey	Berlin	SharoneL.Bailey@gmail.com
9/26/2024 6:16:22	ashleybuska@gmail.com	To go give it more time. Maybe think longer. Why is it such a rush onto get 6th graders up to u32.	Ashley demers	East Montpelier	ashleybuska@gmail.com
9/26/2024 7:13:32	purchase.melissa@gmail.com	Things are being moved too fast. I am glad that Worcester and Calais will have the opportunity to see their schools closing or staying open. I'm still very against moving 6th grade up next year. There is too much that needs to happen and too many questions the public hasn't been given answers to at this point. This specific cohort of 5th graders deserves more. They have already lost out on time in their elementary schools due to Covid and the following year was not like a typical year for them at all with podding, etc. PLEASE slow things down so more plans can be concrete, the building can be made into a "true middle school" and when we truly have answers to questions that have been asked. Thank you for your time.	Melissa Purchase	East Montpelier	Purchase.melissa@gmail.com
9/26/2024 10:20:33	kdunkling17@gmail.com	It does feel like things are a bit rushed! I feel like many parents have not been able to have the opportunity to really way in and or hear the proposals and thoughts on the new formation of schools. Also how it will affect our children. What would the bus situations look like, classrooms etc. I can understand starting the conversation now and then maybe years down the road making the transition once ever has been able to way in.	Krystle	East Montpelier	Kdunkling17@gmail.com
9/26/2024 12:13:15	erincgreen@hotmail.com	While I appreciate the difficult position of the board, I want to register my opposition to moving sixth graders to U-32. I feel that the leap from 6th to 7th grade is a big one, and that 6th graders belong with their elementary school counterparts, not in the building with junior high schoolers. Even when I went to Main Street Middle School in Montpelier (grades 5 through 8 when I attended), they appropriately kept the 5th and 6th graders completely apart from the 7th and 8th graders. Sixth graders are still elementary school students and should be kept in the elementary schools.	Erin Green	East Montpelier	erincgreen@hotmail.com
9/26/2024 16:19:49	angelafauer13@gmail.com	I believe that 6th graders are too young developmentally and physically to be in the same building as 12th graders. I understand that the current hiring climate and budgetary restrictions demand change, but I think there are better ways to enact said changes. For example, having a dedicated Middle school (5th-8th) for our district in a separate building, and maybe combining the elementary schools to another building. That still allows you to close down two building and pool resources, but also allows the students to be in a more appropriate environment.	Angela Fagginger-Auer	Berlin	angelafauer13@gmail.com
9/26/2024 18:29:21	darc1968@gmail.com	Please do what is best for all community members not just the community you represent. Equity of curriculum and services is the of the utmost of importance for students and the current configuration can not continue to provide this. The current education tax rate is not sustainable and many families will not be able to afford the constant annually increases. Also equity for the educator roles must be addressed and reconfiguration is required to do this. Please, please, please do not just listen to those privileged enough who show up at board meetings and those who post on front porch forum. Remember last year's budget vote. The voters, the majority, sent you a strong message, please remember this. All of our communities are aging and many do not have students enrolled in the schools. Many have supported the schools every year for a very long time. The last few year increases are too much and if something doesn't shift then I see many more budgets being voted down.	Kevin	Calais	darc1968@gmail.com
9/26/2024 20:35:14	rockbottomvt@hotmail.com	Please remember you work for the kids and not the tax payers. And please remember this is scary for all of us.	Trina Kilpatrick	East Montpelier	Rockbottomvt@hotmail.com
9/27/2024 7:59:16	karajanesexton@gmail.com	I would like the 6th grade to remain at the elementary schools.	Kara Sexto	East Montpelier	Karajanesexton@gmail.com

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9/27/2024 11:01:38	mcb58seabee@gmail.com	Please keep in mind how the Worcester community has come together in many ways to tell the Board how important it is to us to keep Doty open. It would be heart breaking for the community for Doty to close. PLEASE SAVE DOTY. Thank you.	Marilyn Martin	Worcester	mcb58seabee@gmail.com
9/27/2024 16:06:56	sudeforge@u32.org	I think this survey is about sending the 6th grade to u32. Thinking about what is best for the students, having the students well prepared for this change, the school being very well prepared for this change having enough certified Staff for all students including IEP, 504, speech, OT, Uarts,etc.	Susan DeForge	Calais	Sudeforge@u32.org
9/28/2024 18:41:31	murphybrettw@gmail.com	Please engage with Montpelier Schools in serious discussions about unification. Montpelier needs a new High School and U-32 has room to absorb that number of students. Please help focus on practicalities rather than petty sports rivalries.	Brett Murphy	Berlin	brettwmurphy@hotmail.com
9/28/2024 21:02:55	beestro2006@gmail.com	Affordable taxes, increased equity for all students, 6th grade at U32, and consolidate small schools. Doty is 6 miles from Rumney. Combining Doty w/ Rumney will still constitute a local rural small school with far more opportunities for students and savings to taxpayers.	BeeStro2006	Worcester	BeeStro2006@gmail.com
9/28/2024 21:43:12	snewcombvt@gmail.com	The real financial advantage to closing Doty??? versus the negatives of " gutting" a community of their local school to become what??? and leaving a town without a school as the nexus of their community. Doty has defined Worcester for decades and is very essential to the fabric of our town.	Sharon Newcomb	Worcester	Snewcombvt@gmail.com
9/28/2024 22:05:59	evas97997@gmail.com	I'm done with the endless variations of this question—it's nothing short of a charade. Moreover, as everyone at the community forum on Wednesday, 9/25 made abundantly clear, we lack sufficient data. The only model presented was the one pushing for the closure of Doty and Calais. It's outrageous to even consider bringing this to a vote without solid evidence.	Dov Yeats	Worcester	evas97997@gmail.com
9/29/2024 6:44:26	ginnycallan@gmail.com	Costs and maintaining educational values. We cannot continue to raise the school taxes at a level that will drive property owners and residents out of our district. Closing a few schools with small student populations seems necessary at this time. Students should still have educations that include advanced classes, special education, music, art, second languages, field trips etc.	Ginny Callan	East montpelier	ginnycallan@gmail.com
9/29/2024 7:11:02	accarter53@gmail.com	What will help our students grow and expand their community. Most adults in our community go outside our individual towns to shop, bank, work, find entertainment, etc. Our children should have the same opportunities to engage with others outside of our individual towns. We no longer live in a 'local' environment, but rather in a global one. PLEASE let our children experience something beyond our tiny towns. I urge the WCUUSD board to continue to push towards 3 regional schools. I believe it's what's best for our children, as well as fiscally wise.	Anne Carter	E. Montpelier	Accarter53@gmail.com
9/29/2024 19:47:46	arlyn07@gmail.com	Hard decisions have to be made.Decisions last year have had an impact on small schools and student programs. For example, having Uarts positions split up as they are impacts children, the qualifications of staff we can attract, and takes a toll on the school staff. We need to have the appropriate amount of school buildings for the student population. I also want to encourage the board to work to prepare U32 to meet the needs of 6th graders and truly create a middle school. We need skilled leadership in the middle school.	Arlyn Bruccoli	Calais	arlyn07@gmail.com
9/29/2024 21:31:40	lbgiammusso@gmail.com	If we need to shift to a middle school model as part of this process, I would like the school board to consider slowing down the process of moving the 6th graders to U32. The current 5th grade class have not had a typical elementary school experience. They switched to remote learning halfway through kindergarten due to Covid and then had a distanced/masked first grade year. As an elementary school teacher who just taught this class, I feel that it would not be beneficial for this group to be the first class to experience the shift to a middle school model. I think that it would be upsetting to many students and families to learn at this point in the year that they would be going to U32 ahead of what they initially envisioned. I would like students to know about changes before the start of a school year. That way, they are aware that it is their "last first day of elementary school" or last all-school hike day. I think that it would also better set up students and families to have a positive experience at their new school. In addition, slowing the process down would allow U32 staff to be well-prepared and proactive in terms of the changes. I have heard these concerns from many families of this cohort and strongly urge you to consider this request.	Laura Giammusso	Calais	lbgiammusso@gmail.com

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9/29/2024 23:03:15	emilie.j.clark@gmail.com	<p>Saving costs, and providing students with improved opportunities despite the fear of change that a lot of loud citizens are portraying. I am in favor of consolidating on many levels and would like to see the conversation continue to look towards a future with one central Vermont supervisory union, and am in favor of consolidating high schools with Montpelier, Twinfield, and Spaulding if they could be brought to the table. I think this consolidation is inevitable in this time of escalating costs and declining enrollment, we need to be looking to the future and asking ourselves, what does that look like?</p> <p>I am in favor of, in the short term, consolidating elem schools (I support putting the question to voters next month), but then quickly changing focus to moving the middle school out of the high school, to have a regional MS, and a regional HS. I think that would serve everyone best and provide better opportunities going forward.</p> <p>My thoughts are that EMES, Berlin, and Rumney would be regional elem schools, it would be great to have nursery schools use the space at Doty and CES to open more early childhood Ed programs, that is what our community needs the most.</p> <p>Looking towards a 5-10 year plan, I think that the Country Club Rd. Property would be a perfect place to build a regional MS and then could build trails/road/connector over to U32 from there- both on high ground, new buildings out of the flood plain. U32 has the capacity to have all high school students from the 4 surrounding current high schools, I think we should work towards this large long-term consolidation solution.</p>	Emilie Connor	East Montpelier	Emilie.j.clark@gmail.com
9/30/2024 8:07:07	grimsk28@gmail.com	<p>Children and how Covid has affected them and not only pushed them behind socially, but also academically - this might not be the best class to start this program with - most of the kids are not developmentally ready and need another year to prepare and not be pushed out on their own.</p>	Kate	East Montpelier	Grimsk28@gmail.com
9/30/2024 9:19:43	gsturg@gmail.com	<p>We understand that closing schools is painful. Our ever-increasing tax bills are painful, too. The proposed school mergers will still result in small schools. The children will be fine—they will adjust quickly if the adults agree to keep a positive outlook. We trust the teachers to continue to do excellent work. The school board has told us for the past three years they would address the budget issues by making major changes. It is time to get it done.</p>	Glenn and Kim Sturgis	Middlesex	gsturg@gmail.com
9/30/2024 9:22:35	naomi.heindel@gmail.com	<p>I have deep concerns about the equity of the decision you are making tonight. Worcester has the lowest median incomes in our district and the highest numbers of kids eligible for free and reduced lunch. At least in Worcester, we know that Doty is part of what keeps our small, rural town vibrant and connected. Please do not take that away from our community, our families, and our kids. Doing so will only increase these inequities.</p> <p>I also want to point out that, on the per pupil spending front, it is clear from the data that Doty is not the school to close - we are doing so much already to lower per pupil costs. Doty has steady enrollment, low per pupil spending, and creative, enriching multi-aged instruction. At the very least, per pupil spending cannot be used as an argument to close Doty. At the most, it could be used as an argument to say that Doty is one of the most successful schools in our district, given the budgetary constraints we've continued to face.</p> <p>Doty proves that small schools can be successful financially, socially, and academically. As prices in Chittenden County rise and more young families move to Washington County's rural towns, I truly think it would be short-sighted to move forward with this consolidation. If we do, I would bet that in not too long the Board would be proposing considerable expansion at Rumney to make room for new students. Yes, the funding model for public education in the state needs to change. But no, closing Doty is not a step in the right direction. Any initial cost savings would be very short-term, while the community impact and impact on student learning and sense of community would be long lasting.</p>	Naomi Heindel	Worcester	naomi.heindel@gmail.com
9/30/2024 9:53:20	kaedingtoni@gmail.com	<p>The data doesn't seem to support the notion that closing Doty is the most effective way to save money and that perhaps other options should be considered.</p>	Toni H Kaeding	Worcester	kaedingtoni@gmail.com
9/30/2024 17:14:52	andrea.leigh.tucker@gmail.com	<p>Question: How much of the cost savings from closing our elementary schools will go into the consolidated elementary schools? Yes, U32 may be our school down the line, but I'm curious if those who are giving up the most now are prioritized in any way when it comes to utilizing those savings.</p>	Andrea Tucker	Calais	andrea.leigh.tucker@gmail.com

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9/30/2024 17:16:08	cweller@u32.org	<p>We know that young children learn best through 1:1 and small group instruction. Have we thought about the ramifications for larger group sizes? I know that we want to save the taxpayers money, but don't we want our learning outcomes to be positive as well. Have we looked at the learning outcomes from our larger elementary schools verses our smaller ones? Will we do more harm than good in the end? I know, from my 20+ years of teaching that teachers are able to teach better to small groups. You can see, close up, the misconceptions and mistakes that students are making. You are better able to help in the moment, and our youngest students need help in the moment before they build bad habits. I love teaching and am willing to go and do whatever the board and town feel is best for our students. I just hope that we are looking at the overall learner. More music, more art, sport team, and foreign language opportunities are important, but they are not the foundation of a students academic learning.</p>	Callie Weller	Calais	cweller@u32.org
9/30/2024 17:26:58	jbradley@u32.org	<p>I have concerns regarding the proposed transition of the 6th grade to the middle school, particularly in light of the unique challenges faced by the current 5th grade class. I understand why we're having this discussion and I understand if this is the direction our district needs to go in. But I implore you not to rush this transition, but to give communities and children time to adjust to these changes.</p> <p>This class has experienced significant disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they were in the middle of their kindergarten year just as schools were shutting down. As a result, they have encountered numerous educational gaps. Moving them to middle school at this time could exacerbate these challenges, rather than providing the support they need to thrive.</p> <p>I also feel that all of our communities need more than a year's notice for such a significant change. There are so many "6th grade" traditions and moments that every group of kids deserve to have. If we make this switch tis quickly (having this be the final year for the 5th graders at elementary) there are already moments they will have missed.</p> <p>For these reasons, I urge the board to reconsider the timing of this transition. Allowing this particular group an additional year at the elementary level would provide them with the stability and support they need before facing the challenges of middle school.</p>	Jenny Bradley	Montpelier (I teach in East Montpelier)	jbradley@u32.org
9/30/2024 19:26:40	wilderdenise35@gmail.com	the Calais children learning and thriving in our elementary school	Denise Wilder	Calais	wilderdenise35@gmail.com
9/30/2024 19:57:29	suze414@gmail.com	That education needs to be part of overall community building, and not a separate entity. That there is no solid evidence that consolidation saves money. That this decision process has been rushed and many important factors have not been considered. That towns should not be punished because the state doesn't want to do the work to figure out a more equitable funding method. That the district's administration and VT AOE are not interested in empowering communities and cannot, at this time be considered honest brokers.	Suzy Shedd	Calais	suze414@gmail.com