

ABUTTERS MEETING ON 1/29/25 RE NEW SCHOOL BUILD AT NORTH INTERMEDIATE

My husband attended the meeting. I was not able to. A little about me. My name is Karen Kenney. I grew up in Somerville, raised my 3 sons in Reading and now live at 24 Ballardvale St. in Wilmington, one house away from North Intermediate. I love my home. I will probably live out the rest of my life at this home. My family is very happy here.

Below are my questions and concerns in no particular order.

1. I understand there are 2 schools trying to consolidate into North Intermediate, which brought up the idea of building a new school. Is that correct?
2. Why not just renovate all 3 schools, rather than build new?
3. Are the kids and parents of the 2 schools for or against this move and build? Do they want to travel over here to go to school?
4. What is going to happen to the closed schools? For example, are they going to sit and rot for years like the school in Tewksbury on Salem Rd. across from Piezanos? If so, that would be a big negative for Wilmington. It will bring property values down and it doesn't look good. Leaving them to sit closed leaves room for vandalism, etc.
5. Are the basketball courts no longer going to exist? That would be horrible. They are heavily used. The kids at the North Intermediate, as well as the Wilmington residents, love the courts.
6. Someone mentioned at the meeting that they would miss the sunrises and they look forward to them. Well, I'm on the opposite side of the field. My family would miss the sunsets because as I understand it they would be covered by a 3-story school. That is horrible.
7. Why is it people these days are environmentally conscious, yet they see a beautiful field and decide... let me build a monstrosity of a school on it?
8. Is this new school build definitely going forward, or is Wilmington still in the deciding stages?

9. What would it take for this new school build to happen? Does it get voted on? Who decides?

10. As far as building on the field, there is lots of flooding in the back half.

11. Would our taxes go up due to the build? Would they go up less if the schools were renovated instead?

12. My husband asked at the meeting how far away the bus road and school would be from our property and no one could give him an answer. Can we get an answer now?

13. From what my husband said, seems like there is a lot of space allowed for parking. Have you consulted with other towns and cities on any builds and renovations they have done? Reading may be a good town to check in with. My son was bused to Wood End for a couple of years while they renovated Barrows. Wood End School has just about no parking. Use less parking and move the school over so we can still have our sunrises and sunsets and/or configure the shape of the new school to accommodate for this.

14. When is next meeting?

15. How long would construction take? As I said, I grew up in Somerville. I watched the red line being built. I had tractors and cranes parked in front of my house. There was dust and pollution and contaminants from the construction. The noise of the working trucks beeping all day and all week was horrible. It's bad for the abutting residents. Bad for those who have allergies. Bad for those who have dogs that will be barking all week with the construction. Bad for those who have babies. Bad for those who work from home full time. The noise pollution and the air pollution is a big concern for abutters.

16. This build will cause the traffic to be extreme and the noise from the traffic to increase. I lived in Reading and when they wanted to build Johnson Woods no one wanted it because of the traffic, etc. They built it anyway and then they had to have an officer parked in my neighbor's driveway every day to police the traffic and catch the speeders. The noise from the current traffic is already loud, it would be horrible and triple with the build. Is Wilmington going to be able to provide the police force necessary to contain the traffic and stop the speeders?

17. There's a cut through that the abutters use to get to the field and basketball courts. There's actually a resident who landscapes the path. He goes through there with his ride on lawnmower to keep the path clear for the kids and residents. People are going to be upset if that's taken away.

18. Will this new building be casting shade on my property? That would be horrible.