



SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT FROM VIRTUAL PUBLIC FORUM #2 (June 7, 2020)

Meeting Purpose and Process

Purpose: To continue the master planning process by adapting to health measures resulting from the corona virus, holding the meeting virtually in order to:

- share **key findings of Inventory and Assessment of existing conditions**
- validate what we have heard in terms of the **goals and objectives for the future**
- identify any **new priorities** that may have emerged due to the impact of COVID-19

Process:

The public forum was held on Sunday, June 7, 2020 from 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM. At 4:30 PM attendees were invited to join the meeting for the purpose of receiving technical assistance in case they were unfamiliar or uncomfortable using Zoom. Opportunities for “practicing” were provided. The meeting presentation began at 5:00 PM., in the form of a slide presentation made interactive by asking participants to participate in answering polls questions with multiple choice answers as well as to respond to questions in writing (using the “chat” function). Following the presentation of key findings of the Inventory and Assessment of Existing Conditions and a review of the Goals and Objectives developed a based on significant stakeholder input, participants were invited to join a virtual “Break Out Room” to discuss how the master plan can respond to short-term needs and lessons learned from the experience during the corona virus.

All participants were offered a gift as a token of appreciation for their participation. They were instructed to share their email with the Town Planner in order to receive their gift in the mail. During the breaks between the three sections of the forum, two videos were played (a video of Medfield’s Porchfest and a series of aerial photographs taken by Committee members).



Participants:

Approximately 99 people attended the virtual forum. Not all were present for the entire forum and approximately 25 attended the break out group discussions (not including members of the Townwide Master Plan Committee). Generally speaking, attendees were a fairly representative group with most being between the ages of 46 to 65, but with all age groups represented; approximately one half were male, one half were female; they live in all four neighborhoods identified; and approximately one-third currently have children in the school system, while almost half no longer have children in Medfield’s schools. See APPENDIX A for a more detailed demographic breakdown of the forum’s participants.

Presentation:

The meeting was live streamed on Facebook and the video posted on the Town’s website after the fact. Additionally, an Otter.AI transcript was created and made available for the hearing impaired and any others preferring to read the presentation and discussion.

Following an introduction to the purpose and process, the presentation was divided into two sections:

Part I: Key Findings of the Inventory and Assessment of Existing Conditions

Following a presentation of key findings of the Inventory and Assessment of Existing Conditions by the master plan elements listed below, participants were asked to guess the answer to a question regarding the element by taking a multiple choice poll. The results of the poll were shared and the correct answer then revealed. The purpose of this was to share key facts in an engaging way.

Part II: Goals and Objectives for the Future

Following a discussion regarding the challenges and potential opportunities that the corona virus has presented, new questions were presented:

- What has/should remain the same?
- How and in what ways does the pandemic affect the previously created goals?
- How can we envision a post-COVID future?

GOALS

GOAL 1: Honor Medfield’s TOWN CHARACTER

GOAL 2: Making GETTING AROUND TOWN safe and pleasant

GOAL 3: Encourage ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

GOAL 4: Provide a range of HOUSING options

GOAL 5: Provide PUBLIC FACILITES AND SERVICES that meet the needs of all residents.

GOAL 6: Support the reuse of the STATE HOSPITAL

GOAL 7: Support HEALTH AND WELLNESS of residents.

GOAL 8: Improve GOVERNANCE and plan for FUTURE RESILIENCE

For each of the goals listed below, participants were asked to type their comments and/or questions in the “chat” feature of Zoom. In some cases several of the participants seemed

to be reacting to one another's comments, in other cases, they reacted directly to the prompts (the goals and related objectives).

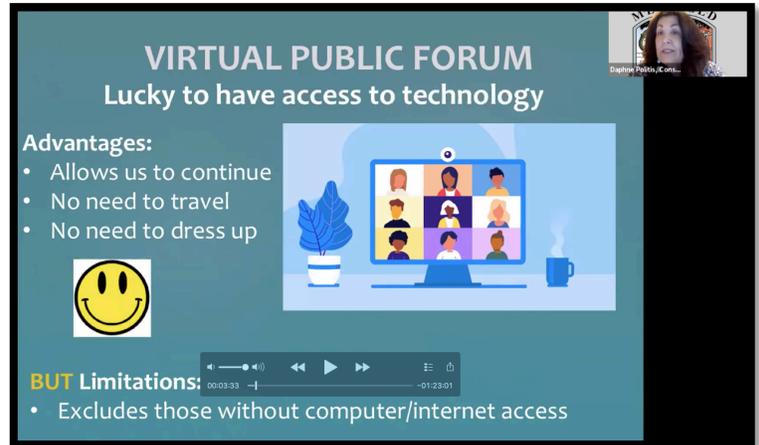
A summary of these comments is presented in the pages that follow.

Advantages and limitations of Virtual Meetings.

The existence of the technology that allows us to continue with the planning process while continuing to engage with the community, is nothing short of wonderful. However, we are cognizant of the limitations, including the fact that it potentially excludes those without access to computers and/or internet or who lack computer literacy or confidence.

Having said this, there was much enthusiasm expressed on the part of participants for the fact that the forum was being held virtually, in fact this point received the largest number of comments! Reasons for given for the strong support for holding the forum virtually and for continuing to do so post-COVID-19 include the following:

- *"Better participation by more people"*
- *"Can involve both parents"*
- *"Getting a sitter was a pain and sports always interfered"*
- *"Chat function allows people to speak up without anxiety"*
- *"Limits run on speakers"*
- *"Sometimes hard to make the meeting on time when returning from work in Boston"*



Key Highlights

Because the forum was virtual, there is a limit to understanding participants' priorities. An attempt was made to analyze the comments in the chat by quantifying them by topic as a way of getting a general sense regarding what people care about the most. However, not all participants were present for the entire forum so this is not to be taken as being statistically significant. It is merely a preliminary way to establish the group's priorities. Stakeholder input will be solicited at a third forum, where the plan will be presented, at which point participants will have an additional opportunity to identify what they consider to be the most important considerations.

The following is a brief summary of key highlights of the virtual community conversation. It is followed by a more comprehensive documentation of the comments.

GOAL 1: Honor Medfield's TOWN CHARACTER

Some participants explicitly stated that this was the most important goal for them, one pointing out the need to define the Town's character.

The following represent the most frequently commented on topics:

- *Natural features and open space including the rail trail, connecting open spaces, linking the trail networks across town and providing trash barrels in open spaces.*
- *Guide development and redevelopment with low density development, town-wide input on development and attention to aesthetics; one participant suggested implementing design review guidelines to accomplish this.*
- *Sidewalks and bike lanes in terms of both extending the network but also increasing safety*
- *Vitality of the downtown was also seen as important with calls to beautify through landscaping, green space and burying the utility lines as well as using the shutdown caused by the virus as an opportunity to reflect on the previous vitality.*

GOAL 2: Making GETTING AROUND TOWN safe and pleasant

The following represent the most frequently commented on topics:

- *Explore some form of public transportation including intra-town transit, bus to commuter rail and transit options to Boston*
- *Improve existing infrastructure and extend pedestrian and bike networks*
- *Too many trucks on Main Street*

GOAL 3: Encourage ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The following represent the most frequently commented on topics:

- *Need to increase the commercial tax base for tax relief on home-owners; encourage manufacturing and increase commercial and industrial zoning*
- *Recruit desirable businesses; ideas include more retail downtown, more public-private partnerships, headquarters for large company, smart office space. Concerns include the fact that the access to 128 and 495 may be an issue for some businesses, and that not enough areas zoned for such activities.*
- *Reuse of the State Hospital will provide opportunities for additional economic activity perhaps including a Tech Center.*

GOAL 4: Provide a range of HOUSING options

The following represent the most frequently commented on topics:

- *Need to provide more affordable housing by supporting 40B initiatives, providing smaller units for people on fixed incomes and young families, stopping tear downs, and defining what we mean by “affordable” housing. Ideas for strategies included: using Town-owned land, “doing” another Allendale, and providing incentives to developers to build smaller units.*
- *Encourage housing diversity such as units on upper stories above retail in the downtown and allowing accessory dwelling units. Concerns include that some people may rent out ADUs (and not keep them for relatives only) and that care must be taken to preserve the Town’s character when building new housing types. Redevelopment at the State Hospital was seen as an opportunity to provide more housing types, including apartments for older adults.*
- *More senior housing, that is, smaller, one-level units. Participants expressed hope that these will provide opportunities for older adults to downsize as well as to relieve pressure from the school system.*

GOAL 5: Provide PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES that meet the needs of all residents.

The following represent the most frequently commented on topics:

- *Support excellence in education by “sparing no expense” on school buildings, making data-driven decisions on school sizes, spend on teachers, increase diversity of teaching staff. Also a call for engaging those residents without children in the schools in school building decisions.*
- *Ensure net zero construction/energy efficiency.*
- *Build municipal facilities with a long term strategy in mind. Comments include building as much as we can afford, but no more, reusing existing buildings before building new ones, balancing costs across all facilities.*

GOAL 6: Support the reuse of the STATE HOSPITAL

The following represent the most frequently commented on topics:

- *Most of the comments were in support of implementing the MSH Plan with some expressing caution in terms of ensuring that the development does not impact the Town negatively, hope that the redevelopment will generate tax revenue and some reality checks pointing out that the plan needs to be vetted by developers and the market. There was also a recommendation that the Town consider hiring a professional developer to attract private investment.*
- *There was some expression of a desire to keep most, if not all of the campus undeveloped or “as is.” Reasons for wanting to limit development included the*

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- need for more open space, preservation of river vistas, traffic concerns, and a desire to keep Town expenditures to a minimum. Also a call for options for dog walkers.*
- *There was support expressed for the Cultural center as it was seen as a positive draw for residents and an anchor for all other development on the hospital campus.*

GOAL 7: Support HEALTH AND WELLNESS of residents.

The following represent the most frequently commented on topics:

- *The subject that received the largest number of comments was the objective to address substance abuse and mental health issues, especially in youth. Participants suggested studying the factors that contribute to substance abuse, providing more activities for kids to do and places for them to go, establishing a Youth Commission, connecting kids to adults who need odd jobs, lower student stress and supporting the Youth Outreach administering the 5-year grant targeting substance abuse prevention.*
- *More sidewalks and bikes to reduce dependence on cars and buses and prioritizing biking and walking was strongly supported.*
- *There was a lot of support expressed for opportunities for recreation. These include maintaining existing ones, access to Charles River for kayaking, connecting the trails in Town, building running trails throughout the Town and providing maps of existing recreation and trail facilities.*
- *Support for aging in place by providing a lower tax rate for seniors, in-home services and changing the zoning to allow accessory dwelling units.*
- *Attracting a diverse population was articulated as an objective in order to support the health and wellness of the community as a whole. Ideas for strategies include providing lower cost housing, anti-racism education, requiring Black Experience in America class in the schools, and establishing an Inclusion and Diversity Committee.*

GOAL 8: Improve TOWN GOVERNANCE and plan for FUTURE RESILIENCE

Improve TOWN GOVERNANCE

The following represent the most frequently commented on topics:

- *As previously mentioned there was very strong support for holding virtual meetings as they are seen as being more convenient, increasing participation and supporting all (including introverts) to speak up. Participants would like to continue to use virtual platforms for public and Committee meetings post-COVID-19.*
- *Increase the number and diversity of the Select Board. Several participants called for an increase to five, from the current 3-member Select Board. Also to recruit more diverse members.*

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- *There was discussion regarding evaluating existing policies for potential racist remnants from the past as well as a desire to develop strategies for increasing diversity on Committees, in the schools and in the Town overall.¹*

Plan for FUTURE RESILIENCE

The following represent the most frequently commented on topics:

- *There was support expressed for measures to protect the environment and for resiliency planning in comments made throughout the forum. Some of the specific suggestions include adopting a climate change goal, examining climate change impacts across all town departments, promoting residential use as well as municipal use of solar energy and establishing a staff position for a Sustainability Coordinator.*

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Master Planning Process. Appreciation of the Townwide Master Plan Committee and the process was expressed but also a concern that it not end up “sitting on a shelf.” Some recommendations for making the Town accountable and making the plan implementable were shared.



¹ **Anti-racism sentiment and a desire for increased diversity.** Recent events, including the murder of George Floyd, and the fact that a vigil in his memory finished an hour before the Townwide Master Plan forum, likely influenced participants in that anti-racism was top of the mind. However, it is important to note that this topic and a desire to increase the diversity of residents living in the Town was part of the community conversation in the first forum held on October 20, 2019.

Summary of Participant Comments

GOAL 1.0 Honor Medfield’s TOWN CHARACTER

- Celebrate the **DOWNTOWN** and work to increase its vitality
- Preserve and enhance Medfield’s **HISTORIC RESOURCES**
- Protect, enhance, and connect existing **NATURAL FEATURES** and acquire additional **OPEN SPACE**
- Guide **DEVELOPMENT** and **REDEVELOPMENT** so that it is in keeping with the Town’s character

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS	ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS	# of responses
This is the most important goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This is most important to me</i> • <i>Very important</i> • <i>Is there a definition of the Town character?</i> • <i>Very important; could be improved</i> 	7
Vitality of the downtown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The shutdown caused by the virus provides an opportunity to reflect on the previous vitality</i> • <i>Beautify town center (landscaping, open space, clear paths/sidewalks, green space, night lighting)</i> • <i>Put off pressure from State to remove parking from Main Street</i> • <i>Remove power lines/poles as part of sidewalk projects</i> • <i>Bury power lines</i> 	5
Guide development and redevelopment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Slow more deliberate development in keeping with town character</i> • <i>Low density development</i> • <i>Town-wide input on development</i> • <i>Implement development design review guidelines</i> • <i>Limit development to account for limited town resources and space</i> • <i>Pay attention to aesthetics</i> 	7
Natural features and open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Including the rail trail</i> • <i>Connect open spaces</i> • <i>Link the trail networks across town</i> • <i>Trash barrels at open space areas</i> 	10
Sidewalks and bike lanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More such as to Shaws</i> • <i>Including from 109 to Shaws</i> • <i>From the North side</i> • <i>Pedestrian safety</i> • <i>Paint bike lanes</i> 	7
Revitalize Juice on Main building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Building has much character, fixing it up could be a unique centerpiece</i> 	2
Traffic calming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Especially around the schools</i> 	1

GOAL 2.0 Make GETTING AROUND TOWN safe and pleasant

- Improve traffic congestion and make traveling by AUTOMOBILE safer
- Improve parking when/where possible
- Improve existing infrastructure and extend PEDESTRIAN and BICYCLE networks
- Explore the possibilities for providing PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS	ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS	# of responses
Rail Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Even more important to complete!</i> 	2
Better phase traffic signals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>With railroad crossings</i> 	1
Explore some form of public transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explore public transit options to Boston</i> • <i>Add back the MBTA Commuter Rail</i> • <i>Providing bus service would take pressure off the 109 corridor</i> • <i>Bus to the commuter rail</i> • <i>Intra-town transit</i> 	7
Improve existing infrastructure and extend pedestrian and bike networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>And take the power lines underground</i> 	4
Traffic calming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>At 109 near Blake Middle and High School</i> • <i>Lower speed limits on 109</i> 	2
Consider downtown street closure for outdoor dining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>During summer months</i> 	1
Remove power lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	2
Resist State pressure on Main St.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resist making Main St. a thoroughfare like Millis</i> 	1
Too many trucks on Main St.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Makes sitting outside on 109 too loud and unpleasant</i> • <i>Take pressure off of 109</i> 	3
More monitoring of cut through streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	1

OTHER COMMENTS

Anti-racist conversation and action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Take a look at any racist antiquated policies and practices and replacing them with research based antiracist policies. Open up a dialogue on ways to meaningfully increase diversity within the Town.</i> • <i>I'd love to see the history of Medfield be more inclusive, noting the impact of a more diverse grouping of individuals</i> 	2
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GOAL 3.0 Encourage ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

- Diversify the TAX BASE
- Become more BUSINESS FRIENDLY

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS	ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS	# of responses
Easy parking always helps	•	1
Recruit desirable businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the “right” kind of economic activity, not just ANY economic activity • More spaces zoned downtown for retail • Attract more public-private partnerships • Encourage smart office space • Attract and retain diverse business and commercial operations by offering tax breaks • Access to 128 and 495 may be an issue for some businesses • Recruit desirable businesses • Recruit a big company to move its HQ to the industrial area off Rt 27 heading north towards Sherborn 	10
Encourage businesses to Increase their hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Especially on the weekends • Shuffleboard 	2
Need more commercial tax base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough industrial zoning • Need more commercially zoned space • Need more tax relief • Lower taxes • Encourage manufacturing • Need more industry and commercial businesses to offset taxes • Too much reliance on residential taxes • So that we don’t have to fund all projects on the back of tax payers • Reduce reliance on real estate taxes 	11
Reuse of the State Hospital will provide opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital reuse goes hand in hand • MSH has zoning to attract businesses • Tech center at MSH 	3
Main Str. Closure during summer Sundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could help businesses 	1
Attract diverse dinning options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shouldn’t have to drive 20-30 minutes for ethnic food options 	1
Do not overdevelop	•	1
Easier permitting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For businesses to open in Medfield • Be more business friendly 	2
Somewhere to hang out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With friends 	1
Sidewalks further out	•	1

GOAL 4.0 Provide a range of HOUSING options

- Provide smaller units for older adults, younger adults and others looking for more AFFORDABLE housing
- Encourage the development of ALTERNATIVE housing types

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS	ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS	# of responses
More senior housing options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will take pressure off the schools • Need opportunities to downsize • One-level housing 	8
More affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support 40B housing initiatives • Need for folks on fixed incomes, young families • Execute the Housing Production Plan • Keep School St., Robert Sproul St., Remsen houses from being tear downs • Incentivize developers to build smaller structures/ avoid knock downs (a la Needham) • Make affordable housing actually affordable • Establish a HARD description of what defines affordable housing • Can we do another Allendale? • Affordable single family and apartments • More rentals so cost of rentals might go down • Use Town-owned land • Look for options in all areas of Town 	13
Encourage housing diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible and well designed apartments above the downtown buildings • Open up to demographic diversity while keeping the Town's character • Allow 1000 sq. ft. dwelling units as accessory units on the 40,000 sq. ft. lots • Some people have expressed concern that ADU's will be rented out 	7
Limit development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide fewer units for families with children • Limit new development • no longer allow 2 large houses on one lot • Don't let developers railroad projects through without public comment 	4
Opportunities at MSH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior housing apartments in the plan 	6
Energy efficient housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net-zero is best 	1

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Lower the tax rate for Medfield seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When they reach 65 years of age • Tax rate is so high even with affordable housing options • High taxes will drive seniors out, selling small houses that get turned into huge houses; the cycle needs to be broken 	4
Create a sub master plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep seniors in toe 	1

GOAL 5.0 Provide PUBLIC FACILITIES and SERVICES that meet the needs of all residents

- Support excellence in EDUCATION
- Continue to plan, manage and maintain municipal FACILITIES
- Improve municipal UTILITIES

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS	ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS	# of responses
Support excellence in education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spare no expense on school buildings • Data-driven decisions on school size; too big means lower quality education • Schools should get creative with start times, scheduling – bussing and traffic benefits • Buildings don’t teach; spend on people, not buildings • Increase diversity in teaching staff • Support the schools but with reasonable budgets 	10
Would like to Town supplied internet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free WiFi all around Town 	2
Encourage use of solar energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	2
Sports complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be great for revenues 	1
Net zero construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be sure that the buildings are energy efficient • Drastic carbon reduction 	6
Water conservation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand why such measures are important and not just to supply more housing in Medfield 	1
Build with a long term strategic focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and provide as much as we can afford, but no more • Don’t build a huge, expensive new school if Dale Street can be renovated • Balance the many costs for upcoming facilities, include all in the master plan • Encourage responsibility in growth, such as reusing Dale • More engagement in discussions regarding school building decisions from the 55% of the population without children in schools 	6
9-hole golf course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Hospital Hill 	1
Services for older adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide services and options for those that stay in town after educating their children 	1

GOAL 6.0 Support the reuse of the STATE HOSPITAL

- Implement the Medfield State Hospital MASTER PLAN
- Reuse the buildings and campus to meet TOWN NEEDS

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS	ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS	# of responses
9-hole golf course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>And clubhouse/grille – all public for Medfield resident use</i> 	1
Keep mostly undeveloped	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>People need more open space</i> • <i>Preserve river vistas</i> • <i>COVID demonstrated the importance of keeping MSH open for all</i> • <i>Overdevelopment must be avoided; traffic concerns</i> • <i>Keep the hospital as is; don't spend any more money</i> • 	7
Town needs options for dog walkers		1
Address housing needs		1
Implement MSH Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We need to see if the market support the plan; if not, then figure out what to do</i> • <i>Where does the Plan stand as of now?</i> • <i>The Plan meets reality when we get developers interested</i> • <i>Can the development plan exist without detriment to the Town</i> • <i>The MSH plan barely passed it is critical that development is thoughtful</i> • <i>Consider hiring a professional developer to develop a plan to attract private investment</i> • <i>Redevelopment can generate revenue</i> • <i>I would love to attract a school campus</i> • <i>Business-friendly zoning to generate tax revenue</i> • <i>Develop with zero tax impact</i> • <i>Mix of commercial and affordable housing while keeping the trails as is; use some of the existing buildings if possible</i> • <i>Can the hospital be used as it was originally intended?</i> 	17
Energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All new construction and renovations net zero</i> 	4
Cultural center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Will be a draw for residential use at MSH</i> • <i>Work/live/play center; add a theater</i> • <i>Put the Chapel on the fast track</i> • <i>The art center will be a great anchor for all other development at the Hospital</i> 	5
Need to be realistic potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The site is not near major highways</i> 	1
Sports Plex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	1

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Bury the wiring in center of town	•	1
Keep municipal buildings downtown	•	1
Increase Town Planner’s budget and salary	•	2

GOAL 7.0 Support HEALTH and WELLNESS of residents

- **Maintain existing and provide additional opportunities for RECREATION**
- **Promote HEALTHY LIFESTYLE choices, especially for YOUTH**
- **Support older adults to AGE-IN-PLACE**
- **Attract a more DIVERSE POPULATION to live in Town**
- **Expand opportunities for COMMUNITY GATHERING**

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS	ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS	# of responses
More sidewalks and bike lanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Let’s walk!</i> • <i>Is there still a plan for a bike path?</i> • <i>Less use of buses for schools</i> • <i>Sidewalks to the north of Town into the center</i> • <i>Make roads accessible for all users- even non-drivers!</i> • <i>More access along sides of roads; more innovation and priority to walking/biking</i> 	13
Focus on health and wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Needed even more now</i> 	1
Avoid intense density of building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	1
Support aging in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>With a lower tax rate for seniors</i> • <i>In-home services if needed and some plan to pay for this</i> • <i>Change zoning to allow accessory units for seniors to live in</i> 	9
Attract more diverse population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide lower cost housing</i> • <i>For sure, but how do we do that?</i> • <i>Anti-racism education would help</i> • <i>Black Experience in America as a required class in schools</i> • <i>More equity in schools and beyond will like attract more diverse residents. Why don’t we have METCO?</i> • <i>Establish a Council or Committee to work on attracting more diverse population</i> 	8

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PARTICIPANT COMMENTS	ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS	# of responses
	<i>(Ibram X. Kendi is opening anti-racist research center in Boston)</i>	
Green development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Related to health and wellness directly</i> • <i>Make decisions with focus on sustainability</i> 	2
Opportunities for recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maintain existing and provide additional</i> • <i>Sports Plex</i> • <i>Create a master plan to link all trails</i> • <i>Rail trail</i> • <i>Access to Charles River for kayaking, etc.</i> • <i>Good maps of our recreation space</i> • <i>Build running paths all over town, away from sidewalks and bike paths</i> • <i>More programming after working hours (so more convenient for working parents)</i> • <i>Parks and Recreation Center</i> • <i>Open space that welcomes adolescents</i> 	12
Affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	2
Create more pocket parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More little parks like the one between Starbucks and Nosh & Grog. Sprinkle them around town to encourage peaceful gathering</i> 	2
Support the arts and music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reduces stress in youth, reduces medication and shorter hospital stays with seniors (much research to support this)</i> 	3
Special events facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For 100-200 person capacity(especially now that the Legion is gone)</i> 	1
Address substance abuse and mental health issues (especially in youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Study and address factors that contribute to high substance abuse amongst youth</i> • <i>Crack down on vaping in MHS</i> • <i>Provide more activities for kids to do and places to gather</i> • <i>Establish a Youth Commission</i> • <i>Connect kids with adults who need odd jobs</i> • <i>Recruit more businesses for students to gather</i> • <i>Lower student/stress/pressure to result in lower substance abuse</i> • <i>Promote membership in organizations such as Venturing Scouts</i> • <i>We have a 5-year grant targeting substance abuse prevention in youth</i> • <i>Support the new substance abuse person</i> • <i>Maybe turn that building with Juice on Main into a gathering spot for teenagers to</i> 	23

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PARTICIPANT COMMENTS	ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS	# of responses
	<p><i>blow off steam</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Don't cut the youth outreach budget</i> • <i>Outdoor recreation and ARTS reduces drug use, improves mental health</i> • <i>Frisbee [disc] golf</i> • <i>They all just want a place to go that is centralized and indoors</i> • <i>Require service hours in order to graduate; serving an underfunded population will help youth to think more broadly</i> 	
Street lights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	2
Community gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Think about ways to make distancing easier while staying connected</i> • <i>Sunday dining downtown, street closure during summer</i> • <i>Outdoor movie night</i> 	3
Fewer Street lights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reduce light population</i> 	2
Public transportation option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Medfield voted down a metro in the 1970's</i> 	1
Stop noise pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Coming from Tresca, Brother operations</i> • <i>Charge Tresca trucks for coming through our town</i> 	2
Location for Food Cupboard expansión	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	1



GOAL 8.0 Improve GOVERNANCE and plan for FUTURE RESILIENCE

- **Improve TOWN GOVERNANCE**
- **Promote measures that respect and protect the ENVIRONMENT**

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS	ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS	# of responses
Improve TOWN GOVERNANCE		
Increase number and diversity of Select Board membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Have 5 member Select Board instead of 3 (6)</i> • <i>More diverse Select Board (2)</i> • <i>Create programs so that new blood will feel more comfortable running for Board</i> 	10
More involvement from the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More transparency and community engagement</i> • <i>Would love it if the Selectmen would reach out for input</i> 	3
Anti-racist policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Evaluation of Charter in context of 2020, language, structure</i> • <i>More diversity on Committees</i> • <i>Would it help diversify the schools if we engaged in School Choice programs?</i> • <i>Use an equity lens to evaluate policies, laws, and policies created years ago to ensure they are equitable and distribute resources in a more equitable way</i> 	5
More communication from town government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Single source for town news</i> • <i>Easy access to information</i> • <i>New Town e-newsletter is in the works</i> 	4
Zoom meetings post-COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This meeting is a great example or engaging residents</i> • <i>Use technology to make it easier for busy parents to participate in things like this</i> • <i>Perhaps Zoom may get more people involved in Committee attendance</i> • <i>Zoom has led to better participation</i> • <i>Comfy at home</i> • <i>I'm attending this meeting from the Cape</i> • <i>Getting a sitter was a pain and sports always interfered</i> • <i>I don't feel guilty coming in late</i> • <i>Ease of getting input</i> • <i>Sometimes hard to get home from Boston in time to make meetings in time</i> 	39

Townwide Master Plan, Medfield, MA

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS	ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS	# of responses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings run later, need to have kids in bed and help with homework • Can involve both parents • Chat function allows people to speak up without anxiety • I miss the free meal though • Limits run on speakers 	
Term limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	1
Promote measures that respect and protect the ENVIRONMENT		
Examine climate change impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across all town departments 	1
Adopt a climate goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a set of climate goals for the town 	2
Solar, solar, solar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use old dump for solar farm • Promote more residential use of solar 	4
Community aggregate alternative electrical source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	1
Add Sustainability Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a staff member 	1

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Appreciation of meeting and planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been great – thank you so much for all of the work • Thank you – informative and helpful • Thanks to all committee members for volunteering their time 	4
Improve and clarify planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer meetings, more doing • Set time limit for meetings • Share a time line for the plan with explicit milestones to build momentum and energy among all residents • How will this differ from the MSH Plan? • Most municipal master plans sit on a shelf and collect dust... implementation must be forced through accountability. Require that it be part of the yearly reports for each department 	4

SMALLER GROUP DISCUSSION: 2 BREAK OUT ROOMS

Participants were invited to join smaller facilitated discussion groups. Approximately 25 residents stayed on to do so and were randomly divided into two virtual break out rooms. They were joined by several Townwide Master Plan Committee members for a lively discussion mostly focused on the short-term impacts of the corona virus. The discussions included appreciating Medfield in the middle of a pandemic as well as lessons learned regarding emergency preparedness. The following is a documentation of participants' comments.



Has anything about the experience of the pandemic made you especially appreciative that you live in Medfield?

- *our open space*
- *Yes, open space!!!*
- *Open space*
- *having space to be able to get outside, walk*
- *Open space to physically distance*
- *That we have plenty of room to move around*
- *open spaces, Medfield State Hospital*
- *I have to agree open space*
- *Great supportive neighbors and great places to walk around MSH*
- *Brothers!!!*
- *People helping each other*
- *The community has been generous*
- *Medfield and surrounding towns trails*
- *Park Street Books*
- *COVID-19 Relief Fund raised by Medfield Foundation to support the town*
- *Everyone's spirit*
- *Medfield Makes Masks*
- *Medfield is a very responsive and collaborative town. I am grateful for the ease in which I can communicate with leaders of various departments to best serve our residents*
- *Many, many curbside pickup & delivery options*
- *Agree on community spirit!*
- *yes having a nice yard and beautiful open spaces to visit and such an amazing and supportive community.*
- *generosity of residents*

Townwide Master Plan, Medfield, MA

- *Senior Rolling Rally was AMAZING, town supporting the kids*
 - *shorter commute*
 - *it was so fun!*
 - *And vigil was excellent today!*
 - *Overall community spirit*
-
- *Visibility of neighborly love, concern and action on multiple fronts*
 - *open space right outside my door*
 - *We love being able to walk anywhere nearby. Cycling excellent.*
 - *Access to open spaces*
 - *I was glad MA and our town were among the first to take the pandemic seriously and mandate closures*
 - *Variety of open spaces, and businesses stayed open*
 - *I'm very glad not to be living in Boston anymore. and glad to have much more open space*
 - *Appreciating smaller town, making it safer to walk around*
 - *It has made me so appreciative of our community. But also the significant socioeconomic privilege it takes to have the freedom we have.*
 - *The ability to socially distant but be neighborly.*
 - *Supportive community efforts to assist those how might be in need*
 - *privilege to workroom home, yes*
 - *Our fellow Medfieldians have done a great job keeping the virus minimal.*
 - *the low covid cases made me feel safer going around town*
 - *Most people seemed to understand and go along with social distancing, etc.*
 - *Less density helps reduce spread*
 - *Appreciation of the incredible volunteer base we had to draw from for the board of health*

What can/should Medfield do to be more nimble in addressing emergencies and thus be more prepared in the future?

- *stronger networks?*
- *Schools could have been better prepared for distance learning*
- *more plans on the shelf ready to go*
- *I think reliance on taxes makes us vulnerable*
- *civil defense?*
- *having the technology set up to support distance learning and meetings*
- *Be aware that something as unexpected as covid-19 could happen*
- *High taxes, I mean*
- *The dedicated cover-page and board of health were a real asset*
- *I second reliance on taxes making us vulnerable*
- *Broadening of town-wide communication channels*
- *I felt the Medfield admin did a really good job responding to COVID*
- *be willing to accept that our future will not look like the past*

Townwide Master Plan, Medfield, MA

- *I think Selectmen and Kristine have been really awesome addressing things—thank you*
 - *yes!*
 - *Agree on town admin kudos!*
 - *From Kristine Trierweiler : Thank you!*
-
- *Increase foot and bicycle circulation opportunities to get all around town safely which is reflected in the goals shared*
 - *text alerts for all residents help*
 - *Is there a way for our first responders to join us on FB? It was done effectively in Dover, as one example.*
 - *Reserve fund to help quickly respond to events such as this*
 - *Possibility of a reserve fund to be able to quickly respond to first stage of an emergency*
 - *Nothing*
 - *To be self sufficient for the first 72 hours of an emergency*
 - *I don't know what the town emergency plans are, or if the emergency staff themselves felt prepared and supported or not?*
 - *Resilience planning*
 - *Assure the town has an updated emergency response plan*
 - *second on text alerts*
 - *maybe have a provision for a virtual town meeting*
 - *Thinking about stockpiling essential supplies that will let us reopen sooner*

What has changed in terms of your priorities for the Town as a result of COVID-19?

- *Zoom meetings.*
- *Let's hope the Governor allows them to continue*
- *We need to continue zoom meetings*
- *Importance of open space that can be used to be outside*
- *I think more businesses will open up to more WFH... this means tons like Medfield may have even more people here during the day*
- *Flexible town staffing*
- *more focused on individual responsibility for group safety*
- *Deeper appreciation of the arts and shared experiences - miss Zullo, Library, meeting with each other face to face*
- *I personally love zoom meetings but haven't had to do many controversial public hearings via zoom.*
- *virtual voting and meetings*
- *Physical, emotional and economic health*
- *the need perhaps for a new bigger school....as people are doing zoom classes and home schooling...*
- *People are doing more local shopping, Brother's, etc.*
- *More support (financial and otherwise) of people who often fall through the cracks*
- *I would also say lower density is key*
- *stockpile TP ;-)*
- *supporting our local businesses*
- *concern as to how to make the town function in the future*

Townwide Master Plan, Medfield, MA

- *Supporting local businesses so they'll re-open; need to support at-risk communities on regular basis; general building design with an eye toward better ventilation, space, not over-crowding*
- *Also, concerns about levels of debt*

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- *Worry about our businesses*
- *Frequenting local businesses more*
- *Intense economic need for our internet infrastructure to be reliable*
- *I would be interested in supporting an emergency fund that helped our elders specifically.*
- *I worry about senior citizens and immunity-compromised populations. Do they have access to groceries, masks, etc.*
- *Increasing the access of food/necessities by additional walking and bike paths as well (would assist seniors too)*
- *In addition to considering the town, during emergencies like this the *region* is important also, and some coordination*
- *Virtual town meeting to be able to pass a budget and make decisions*
- *I've noticed many elderly walking to Shaw's on 109. without sidewalks Shaw's is basically an island accessible by cars only.*
- *sharing and coordinating resources and emergency plans with local towns is great idea*
- *Finding ways to have accessible virtual town meetings*

What has stayed the same regardless of COVID-19?

- *The amazing people in town*
- *I love Medfield*
- *Not much!!*
- *People*
- *strong local community spirit*
- *School budget issues*
- *our ability to help one another!*
- *Business development and state hospital*
- *People love Medfield's open spaces*
- *Supporting underserved population in town -- often invisible to many*
- *Pitching in to help when needed/asked*
- *School. Budget issues*
- *We really do need to implement policies that fit current needs rather than old ways of doing things*
- *need for life to continue, work and studying*
- *Reliance on homeowners for majority of taxes*
- *People's desire to have their families be safe and successful*
- *I second reliance on homeowners for majority of taxes*

- *Expanding protective factors for youth -- strong community relationships, healthy activities, family dinners, etc.*
- *our taxes are impacting the seniors ability to stay in town*
- *that the town is greatly responsible for its own successes, and cannot count on outside resources*
- *Yes, yes -- need to meet senior housing affordability needs!*

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- *COA has a volunteer shopping program in place for seniors. We have delivered bags of food every Wednesday to those experiencing food insecurity, We have picked up food from Gillette Stadium and again delivered to those in need. Masks have been delivered as needed as requested.*
- *We will still need plan to manage traffic and reduce the number of cars*
- *I think most if not all the goals identified are still important. Covid19 has made me think everything is more precious-- the younger generation, our open space, fresh air, and more*
- *We still need to plan for the future*

Is there anything about the pandemic experience that provides us with an opportunity to re-imagine or revise about our Town?

- *love the outdoor dining*
- *Focus on downtown resilience and the social capitol of the community*
- *Yes, suburbs are an advantage!*
- *Need to continue to do meetings via zoom to increase attendance*
- *Less of a commuter downtown*
- *We are getting the chance to be more creative*
- *I wonder how the parking problem will evolve*
- *less of a commuter town*
- *That less traffic would really make downtown nicer*
- *Charge the Tresca trucks every time they pass through town*
- *Bury wires downtown*
- *The Medfield community demonstrates it's ability and willingness to come together to support one another*
- *focuses us on the real need to support our own local businesses, so that they can prosper*
- *General life balance overall...less traffic, more environmental appreciation, more appreciation for community engagement*
- *Can we look at what kinds of staff we need in the post Covid world*

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- *The need to support trails for passive recreation.*
- *Business development needed to draw diversity amongst businesses, housing, and residents*

- *time to think about 'green' building practices*
- *Certainly the traffic issue. Pics of cleaner air in all parts of the world support this.*
- *second supporting trails. safely link them*
- *express bus or other public transportation to Boston*
- *Connecting multiple town centers*
- *Anything and everything more energy efficient*

What is most important for us moving forward?

- *Equity, justice, inclusion, diversity*
- *An engaged community -- tackling problems together vs. in vacuum*
- *Increase commercial tax base*
- *We can't keep raising taxes and driving seniors out. We can't promote diversity and then price people out*
- *How to diversify our tax base*
- *Agree on diversifying tax base*
- *Finding consensus to move forward without being so divisive.*
- *getting to a place of balance, without the stress of the uncertainty COVID has brought*
- *Having more citizens involved....via zoom*
- *The state hospital is a gem, lots of opportunity if we execute well*
- *work well with others and remember to support our local businesses*

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- *Energy planning.*
- *Yes-- climate change*
- *As we develop MSH reducing the tax burden. bringing back our small businesses.*
- *Increasing walkability to amenities for all residents*
- *increase pedestrian and bike safety*
- *Downtown aesthetics*
- *ethics in all areas of building and development*
- *Traffic solutions*
- *Housing affordability without sacrificing open space.*
- *Important not to second guess the future. We can't predict technology or events in the future*
- *Truly affordable "affordable housing"*
- *Artisanal community?*

Anything we can do to improve these meetings?

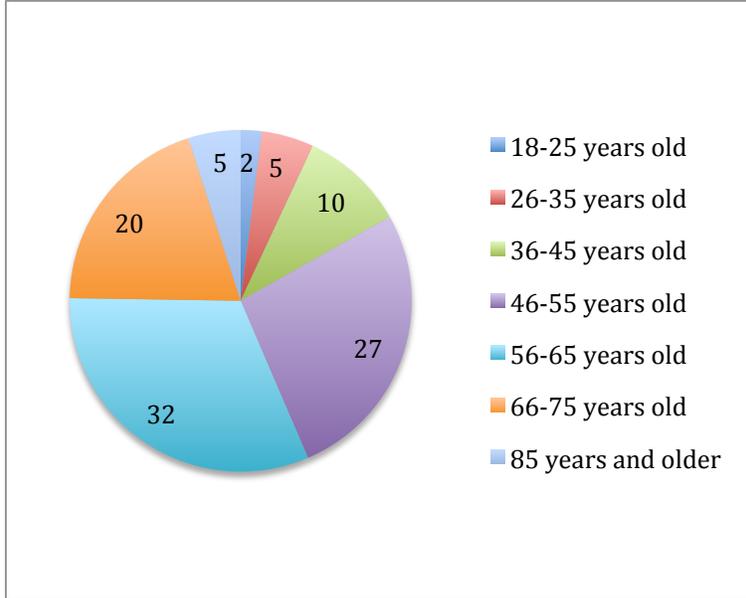
- *I loved the range of inputs!*
- *Yes very helpful*
- *Tally of inputs*
- *It was great!*
- *It was direct and to the point. You also got much more input in a short amount of time.*
- *You are doing a n excellent job*
- *Excellent meeting*
- *getting more citizens involved in the town, to make the town better for all- it is our hometown!*
- *interesting and engaging*
- *Excellent. I've been very impressed with the consulting team from day 1.*
- *thank you*
- *Get results out of this meeting to encourage people to use this great method of participating.*
- *I liked it, I know a good portion of our town is not zoom savvy, at least some of the elders I work with so helping them access this venue is a goal of mine*
- *Is there a timeline when this effort is supposed to be completed?*
- *I think we actually do capture more ideas than in the public forums for the info gathering. I do think in person will be best for the final presentation*

Have we missed anything?

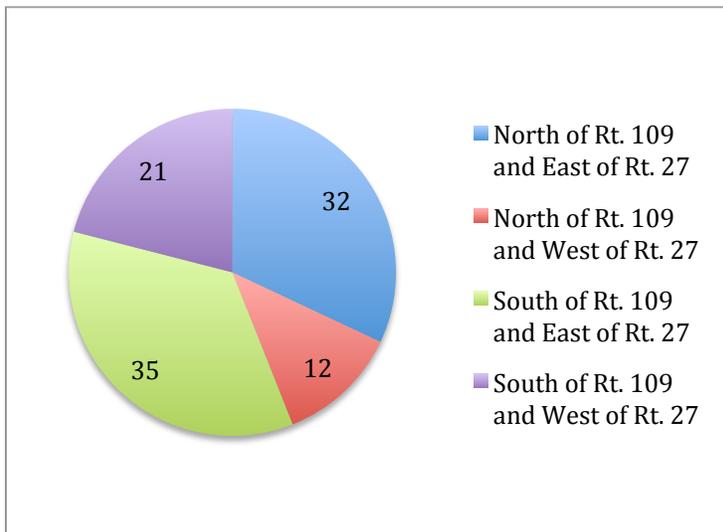
- *One word of caution on over-reliance on Zoom...we still need to have face-to-face conversations :)*
- *Do we have to get approval from AG to have zoom meeting moving forward ?*
- *Thank you for putting this meeting together!*
- *Glad to have a follow up survey for longer responses*
- *Is it okay to publicize the survey link in some of the FB groups?*
- *We are only allowed [Zoom meetings]under the emergency declaration, the legislators will need to file legislation*
- *How can we work on getting that approval from AG ?*
- *We are working on hybrid ways moving forward if the stop allowing it.*
- *It needs legislation to be filed and approved. We are investigating a home rule petition as well.*
- *Well done!*
- *Thank you Kristine!*
- *Thanks all!*
- *Thanks everyone*
- *Thank you*
- *Are there plans for a farmers market at MSH*
- *Thank you all!*
- *THANK YOU!*
- *thank you!*

APPENDIX A: Demographics of Participants

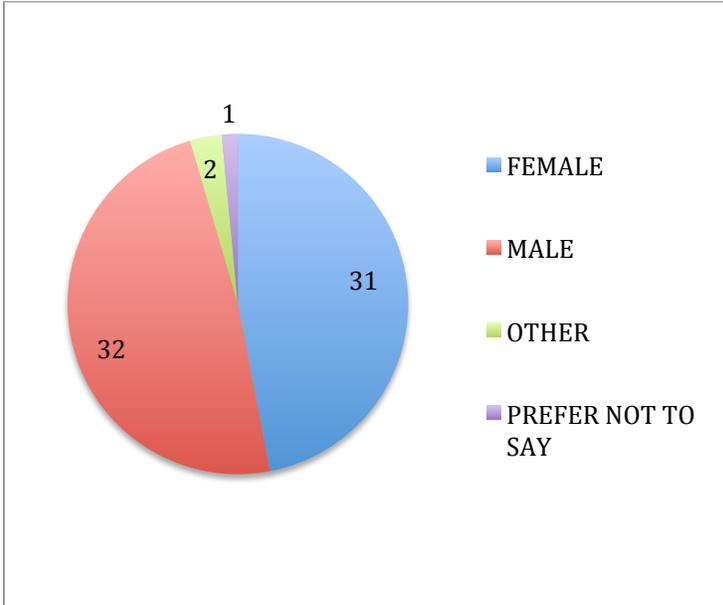
HOW OLD ARE YOU?



WHERE DO YOU LIVE?



WHAT IS YOUR GENDER?



DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN IN MEDFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM?

