

Voter Petitioned Article

Please submit this form with each petitioned article

Date: 1-9-2023

Title/Subject Matter
of Petitioned Article

School Committee Public Hearing

Contact information for the lead petitioner:

Name:

Christine McCue Potts

Street Address:

7 Curve St., Medfield

Telephone:

508-395-8747

Email:

christine.mccue@verizon.net

Article:

See attached

RECEIVED
TOWN OF MEDFIELD, MASS
2023 JAN -9 P 1:00
OFFICE OF THE
TOWN CLERK

For Board of Selectmen Use Only: DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Date petition article submitted

Date signatures verified by Town Clerk

1/9/23 31 signatures verified.

Citizen's Petition – Citizen Request for School Committee Public Hearings

Lead Petitioner: Christine McCue Potts

To see if the Town will vote to:

Amend Town Charter Section 5, Article 5-2 School Committee Powers and Duties, or create a new town bylaw under Chapter 10, Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils, that would require a quorum of Medfield School Committee members to hold a public hearing, **if not already required by law and scheduled within 30 days**, on a topic within its scope of authority if requested in writing by at least **25 registered Medfield voters** with signatures verified by the Town Clerk.

The hearing shall be held not less than 14 days after publication of a notice thereof in a newspaper having general circulation in the town.

At least 48 hours prior to such public hearing, School Committee shall make available to the public via electronic means its meeting packet containing relevant documents for the hearing.

At the time and place of the hearing, as properly advertised, all interested persons shall be given the opportunity to be heard on the topic at hand under School Committee authority, which primarily concerns the school budget, superintendent performance, and district educational goals and policies.

Requests for a hearing related to school personnel (other than the superintendent) or students will be generally prohibited.

Or take any other action in relation thereto.

Background information:

At the time of the writing of this Citizen's Petition, two Medfield School Committee policies directly affect or govern Public Hearings:

BEDH – Public Participation at School Committee meetings

BEE – Special Procedures for Conducting Hearings

The two policies confirm that School Committee has the freedom to conduct a public hearing "on any matter of concern to the community" (BEDH) or "as it deems advisable." Yet, there is no language in either policy that defines how "any matter of concern to the community" is determined or how a hearing topic is deemed "advisable." The most effective way to make this determination would be to give citizens the ability to request a hearing that documents significant public interest.

Even though longstanding policy has allowed citizens to request School Committee agenda items, requests have been commonly ignored. Additionally, recent proposed policy amendments actually omit language that allows citizen requests and empowers the committee to hold public hearings, while simultaneously reducing opportunities for public input at School Committee meetings.

The proposed Article helps to ensure citizen voices are heard on significant School Committee issues and decisions.

Reference for Article: MGL Chapter 71, Section 38N

VOTER PETITIONED ARTICLE FOR TOWN MEETING

To the Board of Selectmen:

We, the undersigned voters of the Town of Medfield, hereby petition the Board of Selectmen pursuant to MGL Chapter 39, Section 10, to insert the following article in the Warrant for the X Annual Special Town Meeting to be held on May 1, 2023:

To see if the Town will vote to:

Amend Town Charter Section 5, Article 5-2 School Committee Powers and Duties, or create a new town bylaw under Chapter 10, Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils, that would require a quorum of Medfield School Committee members to hold a public hearing, if not already required by law and scheduled within 30 days, on a topic within its scope of authority if requested in writing by at least 25 registered Medfield voters with signatures verified by the Town Clerk.

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	Printed Name	Address	Signature
1.	Christine McCue Fotts	9 Burne St. Medfield	Christine McCue Fotts
2.	James Frege	41 Pleasant St Medfield	James Frege
3.	Richard Mayer	8 Fairview Rd Med	Richard Mayer
4.	Donna Baird	23 Lowell Mason Rd. Medfield	Donna Baird
5.	Rene Schweickhardt	1 Metacomet Street Medfield	Rene Schweickhardt
6.	Jeff Hyman	1 McHannet St Medfield	Jeff Hyman
7.	Andrea Castello	34 Bodoc St Medfield	Andrea Castello
8.	Kathy Roderrick	55 Park St Medfield	Kathy Roderrick
9.	Donald Rankin	13 Spring Valley Rd Medfield	Donald Rankin
10.	Thomas Tate	3 Wilbur St Medfield	Thomas Tate
11.	Terry McKeown	9 Snow Hill Lane Medfield	Terry McKeown
12.	James D. Aldinger	51 Spring Street Medfield	James D. Aldinger

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Printed Name

Address

Signature

13. Kathleen S. Devian

1 Steven Lane

Kathleen S. Devian

14. David J. Devian

1 Steven Lane

David J. Devian

15. Kimberly S. Kelley

36 Spring St

Kimberly S. Kelley

16. Georganne Gerlach

38 Spring St

Georganne Gerlach

17. E. Katherine Kelly

36 Spring St

E. Katherine Kelly

18. Robert E. Porcino

8 Rolling Lane

Robert E. Porcino

19. Cecelia M. Potts

7 Lucie St

Cecelia M. Potts

20. Stephanie Seiden

APM St

Stephanie Seiden

21. Beth C. Zoy

22 Oak St.

Beth C. Zoy

22. Gill Powers

25 West St

Gill Powers

23. Robert Herbstzuber

7 Cross St

Robert Herbstzuber

24. Kylie Herbstzuber

7 Cross St.

Kylie Herbstzuber

25. Maureen Herbstzuber

7 Cross St.

Maureen Herbstzuber

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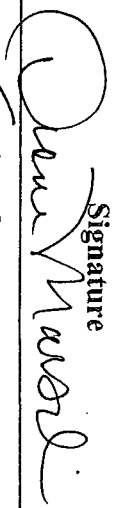
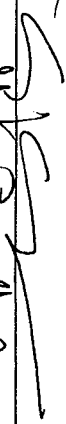

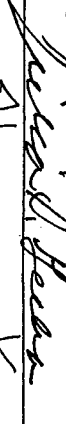

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Printed Name	Address	Signature
✓ 26. Dane Masili	4 Baker Rd.	
✓ 27. Stephen Gigu	4 Baker Rd	
✓ 28. George J. Gaudin	16 Carter Circle	
✓ 29. Jellia Geda	8 Rowing Lane	
✓ 30. Theresia Knapp Ernst	76 West St.	
✓ 31. Sean Potts	7 Curve St	