

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:

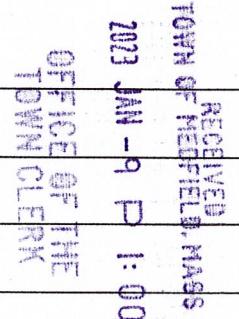
508-395-8747

Email:

christine.mccue@verizon.net

Article:

See attached



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. <u>Christine McCue Potts</u>	<u>9 Pine St., Medfield</u>	<u>Christine McCue Potts</u>
2. <u>Terri Ferg</u>	<u>41 Pleasant St. Medfield</u>	<u>Terri Ferg</u>
3. <u>RICHARD MAYO</u>	<u>8 Pleasant Rd. Medfield</u>	<u>RICHARD Mayo</u>
4. <u>RONALD BROWN</u>	<u>23 Laurel Mason Rd. Medfield</u>	<u>RONALD BROWN</u>
5. <u>Rene Schweickhardt</u>	<u>1 Metacomet Street Medfield</u>	<u>Rene Schweickhardt</u>
6. <u>Jeff Hyman</u>	<u>1 Murchison St. Medfield</u>	<u>Jeff Hyman</u>
7. <u>Andrea Costello</u>	<u>34 Biddle St. Medfield</u>	<u>Andrea Costello</u>
8. <u>Kathy Rodenick</u>	<u>55 Park St. Medfield</u>	<u>Kathy Rodenick</u>
9. <u>Donald Rankin</u>	<u>13 Spring Valley Rd. Medfield</u>	<u>Donald Rankin</u>
10. <u>Thomas Tate</u>	<u>3 Wright St. Medfield</u>	<u>Thomas Tate</u>
11. <u>Terriy McKeown</u>	<u>9 Snow Hill Lane Medfield</u>	<u>Terriy McKeown</u>
12. <u>James D. Aldinga</u>	<u>51 Spring Street Medfield</u>	<u>James D. Aldinga</u>

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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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✓ 13. Kathleen S. Perian	1 Steven Lane	Kathleen S. Perian
✓ 14. David J. Denen	1 Steven Lane	David J. Denen
✓ 15. Kimberly S. Kelley	36 Spring St	Kimberly S. Kelley
✓ 16. Georganne Gerlach	35 Spring St	Georganne Gerlach
✓ 17. EKaterina Kelley	36 Spring St	EKaterina Kelley
✓ 18. Robert E. Porcari	8 Rolling Lane	Robert E. Porcari
✓ 19. Jessica W. Potts	7 Clarendon St	Jessica W. Potts
✓ 20. Adrienne Sellen	9 Pine St	Adrienne Sellen
✓ 21. Bethany Eby	22 Park St.	Bethany Eby
✓ 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

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 Annual Special Town Meeting to be held on April 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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✓ 26. Diane Masili	4 Baker Rd.	
✓ 27. Stephen Guglielmo	4 Baker Rd	
✓ 28. George Ballou	16 Carter Circle	
✓ 29. Tessa Scapa	8 round cone	
✓ 30. Theresa Knapp Ernst	76 West St.	
✓ 31. Sean Potts	7 Curves St	