

W. EDWARD BALMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FEASIBILITY STUDY

DORE & WHITTIER ARCHITECTS

Questions & Answers from Forum #4 – 10/30/2017

EXIT TICKETS

Participants were asked to answer two questions on an “exit ticket” to clarify what information they learned or took away from the presentation, and asked to provide their thoughts on that fact or submit other questions they might have. A selection is included below. Some are edited or restated for clarity.

What is a significant fact that you learned or opinion that you formed this evening?

1. “It makes good sense and planning to consolidate the Northbridge Elementary (Cross Street) School into the...Balmer School location.”
2. “C5 appears to be the best option so far.”
3. “Ideas for the use of NES [site], thinking ‘outside the box’.”
4. “Impact to taxes.”

What questions do you still have now?

Q: What is the best option that the voters will accept knowing there are other building needs, i.e. Fire HQ, in the future?

A: The School Building Committee, in its consideration and deliberations of the available Alternatives, will take other Town needs into consideration as it decides upon the Preferred Option to bring to the voters.

Q: What will be done if town votes the project down at Town Meeting in the Fall 2018 (or will it be an either/or)?

A: The School Building Committee, with input from Northbridge stakeholders at School Building Committee Meetings (which are open to the public) and future Public Forums, will select a single Preferred Alternative at their December 19th meeting from among the available Alternatives being studied now. If accepted by the MSBA, this Preferred Alternative will be developed in more detail and brought to an “up or down” vote next Fall 2018. If the project is defeated, the ongoing code, functional, and deferred maintenance concerns at the existing Balmer and Northbridge Elementary Schools will still have to be dealt with, but with no State reimbursement/aid.

Q: The presentation mentioned utilizing the bus loops for playground space and blocking the road. Could this be fenced and/or gated?

A: Yes, if a playground is located within a bus loop, as is shown on two of the options, it will be fenced and gated. As stated in the presentation, the bus loop would not be in use at the same time the playground would be used.