



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE
31 PIERCE STREET, STOUGHTON, MA 02072

To: Town Meeting Members

From: T.J. Recupero, Chair
Elementary School Building Committee

Date: October 27, 2025

Subject: Proposed Amended Motion for Article 13

It has come to our attention that a proposed amendment to the motion for Article 13 has been submitted. On behalf of the Elementary School Building Committee, I ask that you **VOTE NO** on this amended motion and approve Article 13 with the motion as submitted.

Article 13 is for the acceptance of the parcel of land commonly known as Fano Drive, in order to allow the project to use Fano Drive as an entrance and egress for the new school. The article, as submitted, includes a listing of the parcels that the Town will acquire from the current owner, DAD LLC, as well as an amendment to the February 2025 Town Meeting article that appropriated the funding for the new school. The proposed amended motion strikes language intended to clarify the original appropriation to allow the project to use the land that is being transferred. This language was suggested by both Town Counsel and Bond Counsel to make clear that the intent of the land transfer is to use it in the design of the new school. In other words, if the proposed amended motion strikes that language, it would nullify the purpose of the transfer itself. The project will go forward either way, but approving the amended motion would result in a less desirable access to the school and would negate cost savings created by using Fano Drive.

If the proposed amended motion passes (or if the original motion on Article 13 fails), the school project would be required to redesign the entry/egress from Park Street to match the original proposed concept. Under that concept, the school entrance would occur via a bridge over wetlands along Park Street, with an emergency egress extending through the site to the Haynes Road neighborhood, where a second bridge across wetlands is required.

If the project is forced to revert to that original design, it would:

- Incur an added cost of over \$2.5 million and a delay of at least six months. The additional cost includes over \$2 Million saved by eliminating the egress to Haynes Road – a roadway only needed if the main entrance is inaccessible in an emergency, and an avoidable burden on that neighborhood.
- Trigger additional review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and local boards for the impact to wetlands and additional impervious surface required, adding a costly and time consuming process to the project.
- Constrain the school entrance to the existing 50-foot frontage along Route 27, as opposed to a wider accessway that better facilitates traffic improvements and flow.
- Impact more natural resources, such as wetlands and wooded areas that would otherwise remain untouched, and would require significantly more stormwater management systems.

Accordingly, the Elementary School Building Committee strongly requests that Town Meeting **reject the amended motion** and approve articles 13 and 14 with the motions as submitted.