

Ad Hoc Polling Place Review Committee
Public Hearing
Joyce Middle School
Woburn, Massachusetts
September 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Following an open house at the Joyce Middle School gymnasium from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., a public hearing was held on September 12, 2012 at the Joyce Middle School at 6:30 p.m. Woburn City Clerk William Campbell began the public hearing by thanking the audience members for attending the meeting. He then gave the public a brief overview of the committee's purpose. He stated that the Ad Hoc Polling Place Review Committee's goal was to research alternative polling locations in order to remove the elections from the elementary schools. Democratic City Committee Member Joseph Demers then gave a PowerPoint presentation that documented the committee's principals and research. After Joseph Demers finished his presentation, residents were given the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed consolidation. The public was divided in their opinions, with some favoring the move to the Joyce Middle School and others opposing the option. A few residents stated that they would prefer a consolidation to the Joyce Middle School, the Senior Center, and Woburn High School. One resident stated that she did not feel that hosting elections in elementary schools posed a security threat, but Joseph Demers stated that the potential for an incident to occur is great and that one incident would be too many. Also, the committee was asked if the Wyman Elementary School district could vote at the Spence Farm building, but City Council President Paul Denaro stated that the Spence Farm building is not handicap accessible. Ward 6 Alderman Raymond stated that he did not support the consolidation to the Joyce Middle School because he did not want his constituents to have to drive across the city to the Joyce Middle School. He stated that his constituents often walk to the Altavesta Elementary School to vote and he felt that the Joyce Middle School was too far a distance for ward six residents to travel. Joseph Demers stressed to the public that these changes would not affect the upcoming Presidential Election. William Campbell ended the public hearing by thanking the public for attending the meeting and voicing their concerns.

Attest: _____
Megan Murphy