



Groton School Facilities Initiative

Draft Survey Discussion & Public Outreach Discussion

May 15th 2015
SFITF Meeting





Introduction

- SFITF Housekeeping – Communications
- Jeff Lindsley from CRPP and Draft Community Survey
- Discussion on Public Outreach for May 21st & 28th Meetings
- Next Steps



Community Survey

Hello, my name is _____. I am a research assistant at The Center for Research and Public Policy. We are talking today with residents of Groton, Connecticut about public school facilities in town. Your input will help guide decisions over the years ahead. Your responses are strictly confidential and we will not ask for your name.

SCREENER

A. Are you at least 18 years of age or older?

- 01 Yes (Continue)
- 02 No (Ask for qualified respondent)
- 03 DK (Thank and terminate)

B. Are you currently a full-time resident of Groton, Connecticut?

- 01 Yes, (Continue)
- 02 No (Thank and terminate)
- 03 DK (Thank and terminate)

C. Are you registered to vote in Groton?

- 01 Yes (Continue)
- 02 No (Thank and ask for qualified respondent)
- 03 Unsure (Thank ask for qualified respondent)



Community Survey

Quality of Life

1. How satisfied are you with Groton, Connecticut as a place to live? Would you say...

- 01 Very satisfied;
- 02 Somewhat satisfied;
- 03 Somewhat dissatisfied; or
- 04 Not at all satisfied.
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

2. And, how would you describe your own standard of living today compared to two years ago? Would you say....

- 01 Improved;
- 02 No movement, but good;
- 03 No movement, but not so good; or
- 04 Declined.
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

3. Based on all you know or have heard, please rate the Groton Public Schools overall using a scale of one to ten where one is very good and ten is very poor.

Rating Groton Public Schools	Very Good										Very Poor	DK
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	



Community Survey

Awareness

4. Prior to my call today, how aware would you say you were that a group of appointed Groton residents called the **School Facilities Initiative Task Force** have been working for years on a plan to upgrade and modernize school facilities in town? Would you say...

- 01 Very aware
- 02 Somewhat aware
- 03 Somewhat unaware
- 04 Not at all aware (**Go to Q7**)
- 05 Unsure / Don't know



Community Survey

Interest

5. How interested would you say you are in the planning process for the **School Facility Initiative's Groton 2020 Plan**, which is the plan for upgrades and modernization of public school facilities in town? Would you say....

- 01 Very interested;
- 02 Somewhat interested;
- 03 Somewhat uninterested; or
- 04 Not at all interested.
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

6. How closely would you say you are following the planning process for the **School Facility Initiative's Groton 2020 Plan**, in town? Would you say....

- 01 Very closely;
- 02 Somewhat closely;
- 03 Not very closely; or
- 04 Not at all.
- 05 Unsure / Don't know



Community Survey

The Plan: The Ballot I

Currently, the Task Force is recommending the Groton 2020 Plan. The plan aims to address aging facilities requiring significant capital investments and expanding educational opportunities for all Groton residents. Groton 2020 plan calls for the construction of a new 169,000 square foot middle school adjacent high school. Upon completion of the middle school construction project, two new 86,000 square foot elementary schools will be built at Cutler and West Side. Pleasant Valley, Claude Chester and SB. Butler will be closed.

7. Based on this information regarding the plan, if a referendum was held today, how would you vote? Would you say...

- 01 Definitely support (Continue)
- 02 Probably support (Continue)
- 03 Probably oppose (Go to Q6)
- 04 Definitely oppose (Go to Q6)
- 05 Unsure / Don't know (Go to Q7)

8. Please tell me why?



Community Survey

Perceptions

The following are a number of statements related to school facilities in Groton. As I read each, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

Statements	StrA	SA	SD	StrD	DK
9. Education quality is impacted by the quality of school facilities	01	02	03	04	05
10. Surrounding towns are surpassing Groton in quality of education programming and facilities	01	02	03	04	05
11. In general, I'm a supporter of modernizing Groton public school facilities	01	02	03	04	05
12. It's important to provide modern facilities for 21st Century learners to be "future ready"	01	02	03	04	05
13. Improved school facilities will impact economic development in Groton in a positive way	01	02	03	04	05
14. Regarding the proposed School Facility Initiative Plan, the cost of doing nothing will make this effort more expensive tomorrow	01	02	03	04	05
15. The land at any closed or consolidated schools should become playing fields and open space for Groton residents	01	02	03	04	05
16. Groton school facilities were never properly maintained	01	02	03	04	05
17. Pre-K education in Groton is important	01	02	03	04	05
18. Groton needs more playing fields	01	02	03	04	05
19. Groton school facility planning should include in-town Magnet Schools	01	02	03	04	05



Community Survey

Vote Impact

Earlier, I asked you if you would support or oppose the School Facility Initiative Plan described. The following are a number of details or characteristics of the Groton Public Schools. For each, please tell me if the characteristic makes you more likely or less likely to support the Initiative Plan or would it not make a difference.

Characteristics of Groton School Systems	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference	Unsure
20. It helps eliminate State mandated redistricting	01	02	03	04
21. If the plan includes new construction instead of renovation	01	02	03	04
22. If you knew most Groton public school facilities are 75 years of age or older	01	02	03	04
23. If the plan included a combined middle school and high school campus	01	02	03	04
24. If the plan increased the amount of playing fields in Groton for public use	01	02	03	04
25. If you knew that \$2.5 million dollars annually is sent from Groton to surrounding town Magnet schools where Groton students are attending	01	02	03	04
26. If the plan included programming and facilities for specialized themes	01	02	03	04



Community Survey

Tax Implication: The Ballot II

27. We have had a moment to discuss many of the issues surrounding the School Facility Initiative Plan. I would like to ask you again about your own support or opposition to investment in Groton's school facilities if the cost to the average property owner in increased annual property tax was \$250.00. How would you vote on the plan? Would you say you would ...

- 01 Definitely support (Go to Q30)
- 02 Probably support (Go to Q30)
- 03 Probably oppose
- 04 Definitely oppose
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

28. And, if the investment in Groton's school facilities cost was \$200.00 for the average property owner in increased annual property tax? Would you say you would...

- 01 Definitely support (Go to Q30)
- 02 Probably support (Go to Q30)
- 03 Probably oppose
- 04 Definitely oppose
- 05 Unsure / don't know

29. And, if the cost of the investment in Groton's school facilities was \$150.00 for the average property owner in increased annual property tax? Would you say you would...

- 01 Definitely support
- 02 Probably support
- 03 Probably oppose
- 04 Definitely oppose
- 05 Unsure / don't know



Community Survey

Communication

30. Please tell me where you usually get information about Groton Schools? (Researchers: Accept multiple responses)

- 01 Internet / Websites
- 02 TV
- 03 Radio
- 04 Local Newspapers: Printed
- 05 Local Newspapers: Online
- 06 Friends/Family/Neighbors/Co-workers
- 07 Social media such as Face Book
- 08 Employer
- 09 Directly from the schools / school system
- 10 Direct mail
- 11 State news outlets (papers, radio, TV)
- 12 Blogs
- 13 Other: _____
- 14 DK/Unsure

31. Please tell me which, if any, social media you use. If you don't use social media, simply say so. (Researchers: Accept multiple responses)

Social Media Used
01 Facebook
02 Twitter
03 Pinterest
04 LinkedIn
05 MySpace
06 YouTube
07 Google+
08 Yelp
09 Instagram
10 Foursquare
11 Other
12 Neighborhood Porch or similar
13 Don't Use Social Media



Community Survey

Demographics

32. Please tell me the number of years you have lived in Groton?

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | _____ |
| | (Researchers: Please enter one number, no words or ranges) |
| 77 | DK/Unsure |
| 99 | Refused |

33. Please tell me your age?

- | | |
|----|-------------|
| 01 | 18-24 |
| 02 | 25-34 |
| 03 | 35-44 |
| 04 | 45-54 |
| 01 | 55-64 |
| 02 | 65 or older |
| 07 | Refused |

34. Please tell me which of the following best describes the children you may have...

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | I have children under 18 in the Groton schools |
| 02 | I have children over 18 that went to Groton schools |
| 03 | I have children that did not go to Groton schools |
| 04 | I have children that do not presently go to Groton schools |
| 05 | I have no children |
| 06 | Unsure / Don't know / Refused |



Community Survey

35. Have you voted in Groton referendums or special elections in the past?

- 01 Yes
- 02 No
- 03 Unsure

36. How likely are you to vote in a referendum next year on the Groton 2020 Plan we've been discussing today? Would you say... |

- 01 Very likely;
- 02 Somewhat likely;
- 03 Somewhat unlikely; or
- 04 Not at all likely.
- 05 Unsure / Don't know



Community Survey

37. Which of the following categories best describes your total family income before taxes?

- 01 Under \$9,999
- 02 \$10,000 to less than \$40,000
- 03 \$40,000 to less than \$70,000
- 04 \$70,000 to less than \$100,000
- 05 \$100,000 to less than \$130,000
- 06 \$130,000 to less than \$160,000
- 07 \$160,000 or more
- 08 DK/Unsure
- 09 Refused



Community Survey

'Thanks you very much for your participation in this important survey.'

CODE: Gender by observation.

- 01 Male
- 02 Female

CODE: Neighborhood (Total 400)

- 01 City of Groton (Quota: 104)
- 02 Town (Quota: 124)
- 03 Groton Long Point and ~~Noak~~ (Quota: 25)
- 04 Mystic (Quota: 104)
- 05 Naval Base Area (Quota: 43)



Community Informational Meeting

- Slated for May 21st at Town Hall Annex CR1 & May 28th at the Senior Center
- First Key step in “Getting the Word Out”
- Community workshop and local access to best inform public in advance of public survey
- Thirty minute presentation followed by informal breakout discussion.