building whose overall effective height, scale and massing, particularly when including roof-top mechanical structures, is out of scale and not in keeping with the abutting single-family homes, and

WHEREAS, at present the construction differs in significant respects from the plans that were originally approved by the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals and vetted through the public process,

NOW THEREFORE, Town Meeting, in expressing its regret with the unacceptable imposition on our impacted fellow Town residents as well as its intent to moderate the adverse impact of the roof-top mechanical structures on nearby homes, requests both that the various Town agencies involved in the Runkle School project devote the time and resources, including reallocated FY 12 funds and FY 13 and/or FY 14 appropriations, necessary to take appropriate remediation measures to alleviate the impact on affected abutting properties, and further, that the Town develop and institute effective policies and safeguards to ensure that the current unfortunate situation not be repeated in future public construction projects.

or act on anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 27
Submitted by: Human Resources/Youth Resources Commission & Hidden Brookline Committee

To see if the Town will adopt the following Resolution:

A Resolution Regarding Slavery in Brookline

WHEREAS, slavery was officially legalized in the Massachusetts Colony in 1641, three years after the settling of Brookline; according to Town Meeting records, slavery existed in Brookline by 1675, if not before, and continued until roughly 1800.

WHEREAS, over 70 children, women and men in total (primarily African-Americans, but also Native-Americans) were enslaved here – bought, sold and inherited; dehumanized and stripped of their names and heritage.

WHEREAS, in 1717 the Town Meeting selected a slave owner as its first minister and paid his salary out of Town funds.

WHEREAS, in 1744 the Town received a substantial bequest for the building of a new school from Edward Devotion, a slave owner and citizen.

WHEREAS, in 1746, Town Meeting agreed to have Henry Sewall’s enslaved man Felix clean Town Hall.

WHEREAS, in that same year over one-quarter of Brookline households owned people.

WHEREAS, the ownership and trade in enslaved persons and the exploitation of their labor increased the prosperity of many Brookline families, thus increasing the collective
wealth of the Town.

WHEREAS, as noted in the large plaque at the entrance to Town Hall, on April 19, 1775, three enslaved Brookline men marched as Minutemen to the Battle of Lexington for freedom from foreign rule.

WHEREAS, we recognize that even the most abject apology for past wrongs cannot right them; yet we believe that acknowledgement of past wrongs can promote reconciliation and can prevent the repetition of these wrongs and their related injustices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Meeting of Brookline hereby acknowledges with profound regret the enslavement of Native-Americans and African-Americans and the exploitation of slave labor by this Town, within this Town, and amongst the citizens of this Town.

RESOLVED, that the Town Meeting call upon the people of Brookline to acknowledge and recognize contributions of Native-Americans and African-Americans to the Town and the achievement of equality, liberty, justice and democracy.

RESOLVED, that we pledge continued vigilance against all practices and institutions that dehumanize and discriminate against people.

RESOLVED, that the School Committee consider including this history of Brookline slavery in appropriate places in its curriculum.

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall distribute copies of this resolution to the public libraries and schools of this Town and shall post this resolution on the Town’s website.

Or act anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 28
Submitted by: Catherine Marris, Jake Wolf-Sorokin, and Pema Doma

To see if the Town will adopt the following resolution:

Resolution
Supporting Clean Construction Standards to Protect Public Health and Climate Stability

WHEREAS, the Town of Brookline is committed to ensuring the health, safety and well-being of its residents; and,

WHEREAS, in order to protect the air quality throughout the community, the Town must control the emission of air pollutants; and,

WHEREAS, air pollution has deleterious effects on climate stability, human health, animal life, urban agriculture, personal property and limits the activities of citizens out in the community; and,