



Business, Finance and Planning

TO: Lincoln-Eliot Staff and Community

FROM: Liam Hurley, Assistant Superintendent/CFAO
Stephanie Gilman, Director of Planning, Project Management and Sustainability
Josh Morse, Public Building Commissioner

DATE: July 30, 2021

RE: Update: Lincoln-Eliot building project at 150 Jackson Road

Dear Lincoln-Eliot Staff and Families,

We are writing to update you on the Lincoln-Eliot School Building Project. We are excited that following the delay last year due to COVID, the mayor recently announced that the project is moving forward again. We wanted to share the following information with you as we have received some questions this summer about the project.

As you know, the Lincoln-Eliot project is linked to the NECP (Newton's Preschool) project, as the new L-E will be located at the current NECP location at 150 Jackson Rd. The NECP building project at 687 Watertown Street is scheduled to break ground this Fall. Once NECP moves to its new space, construction will begin on the new L-E, with a projected completion date of Fall 2025.

The L-E project building committee, the Newton Public Schools, and the City are working together to design a building that meets the needs of the L-E community and is comparable in size and design to the recently completed elementary schools in Newton, including Angier, Zervas, and Cabot. The total square footage and the classroom sizes in the new Lincoln-Eliot will all be comparable to these three schools. The gym, cafeteria, art room, music room, and library will all be similar as well. The playgrounds, fields, and grounds will be comparable to Angier, Zervas, and Cabot, although the 150 Jackson Rd. Site is a larger site, offering more possibilities and options for recreational and green spaces.

Over the past two years, and now with the project restarted, the committees involved have been reviewing enrollment data both within the Lincoln-Eliot school and across the district as a whole. Given the historical enrollment data, the recent decline in enrollment and the projected decline moving forward, the project team is proposing to reduce the number of classrooms from the 24 in the original space program to 20. These 20 classrooms, 18 regular education plus two dedicated Special Education classrooms, will accommodate up to 414 students, based on School Committee guidelines.

Despite the declining enrollment, the project will be designed and sited to add an additional four classrooms if ever needed in the future, and all of the core spaces will be sized to accommodate this potential expansion.

For reference, over the last 10 years, Lincoln-Eliot has averaged 344 students, with yearly enrollments ranging from 317 to 374 students. Enrollment is projected to decline to 334 students in 2025, which includes new developments already permitted. Finally, peak student enrollment at Lincoln-Eliot was 435 students in 1970.

Additional information about the Lincoln-Eliot project will be presented at the following two public meetings:

- August 3, 2021, 6:00 PM - Lincoln-Eliot School Building Committee Meeting: Link to School Building Committee Zoom meeting: <https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/72801>
- August 16, 2021, 7:00 PM - Newton School Committee Meeting: Link to School Committee Zoom meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/390017072>
- Project information is also available on the project website at <http://lincolneliot-necp-projects.com/>

We look forward to meeting with you in the fall to share further project updates. This is an exciting time for the L-E community and we look forward to continuing to partner with you as the project moves forward.

CC: School Committee