

NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA 02460

AREA CODE (617) 559-9025

Memorandum

TO: David Fleishman, Superintendent
School Committee

FROM: Sandra Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: October 26, 2015

RE: Angier Elementary School Project
Zervas Elementary School Project
Cabot Elementary School Project
Aquinas Project

This update addresses information on the Angier Elementary School project, the Zervas Elementary School project, the Cabot Elementary School project and the Aquinas project.

I. Angier Elementary School Project

Construction activities are ongoing and the new Angier will open in January 2016. Exterior site work is continuing on the playground and the front plaza. The retaining wall with stone veneer for the plaza is being built and the two school medallions from the façade of the old building have been installed. The installation of curbing is ongoing and the preparation for installation of landscaping beds, loam and trees has begun at the perimeter edge of the school property along Beacon Street and the MBTA property. The building façade is complete with the exception of metal panels in a few areas. Installation of windows, curtain wall and storefront systems was completed in October. The roof systems have also been installed. Mechanical systems, including boilers, pumps, hot water heaters and electrical equipment, are complete and plumbing fixtures are being installed.

A mock-up of a typical classroom with all finishes installed is complete. The progression of interior finish work is proceeding in a top down manner with third floor work being more complete than the second and first floors. Final coats of paint are being applied on the third floor as well as the completion of the ceilings and flooring and tele/data devices. When complete, the various trades will focus on completing the second and first floors. The kitchen quarry tile is complete, the gym ceiling has been painted and the basketball hoops installed. Delivery of fixtures, furnishing and equipment (FF&E) remains on schedule for December 18 - 31, 2015.

Planning by the school administration for Angier's move from Carr School to the new building has begun. Packing crates and dollies for stacking and moving of teaching materials have been delivered, and teachers have begun to pack. The move will occur during winter break in December 2015. School was open at Angier at Carr on the Columbus Day holiday in order to make up for the fact that there will be no school on January 4 and 5, 2016 to enable teachers to unpack at the new Angier on those days.

Weekly construction meetings continue to be held by the project team. Construction update meetings with the Waban Area Council are held on the second Thursday of the month, unless otherwise scheduled.

Key upcoming dates are planned as follows:

November 2, 2015	Joint meeting of Board of Aldermen and School Committee for construction project update
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General information about the project, and updates on community meetings, is available at:
<http://angier.projects.joslinlessner.com/>

W.T. Rich's webcam of the Angier construction site can be viewed at:
<http://oxblue.com/open/Angier>

II. Zervas Elementary School Project

The project is on schedule and on budget. During summer 2015 the Early Bid Package #1 for abatement, demolition and site work was issued and a pre-construction meeting was held on site with subcontractors to review the schedule and procedures for the early fall work. The project team presented the 60% construction document cost estimates and design enhancements to the Board of Aldermen and the School Committee at a joint project update meeting on September 8, 2015 and to the Design Review Committee (DRC) at their September 9, 2015 meeting. An on-site meeting was held on October 1, 2015 to review the proposed tree removal and replacement plan and minor tree work and erosion control has begun.

Early in October the 90% construction document (CD) review process with the DRC and the engineering and conservation departments took place and to enable to the main bid documents to be released to cost estimators. At their October 21, 2015 meeting the DRC reviewed the main construction documents and voted to release the documents for bidding.

Planning by the school administration for Zervas' move to swing space at the Carr School continues. Crates to be used for packing of teacher materials have been delivered and teachers have begun to pack. The move will occur during winter break in December 2015. There was school at Zervas on the Columbus Day holiday in order to make up for the fact that there will be no school on January 4 and 5, 2016 to enable teachers to unpack at the Carr School on those days. The new Zervas will open in September 2017.

Key upcoming dates are planned as follows:

November 2, 2015	Joint meeting of Board of Aldermen and School Committee for construction project update
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For more information, including the latest design presentations, please follow the link below:

<http://zervas.projects.joslinlessner.com/>

III. Cabot Elementary School Project

The Parks & Recreation Commission meeting and public hearing was held on September 8, 2015. Following several hours of public testimony, the commission voted in favor of supporting the use of less than 0.1 acres of park land to accommodate 28 spots of mostly head-in parking along a redesigned Parkview Avenue that terminates in a blue zone drop off circle at the new Cabot School adjacent to the new plaza joining the school and the park. The plaza, including the children's play area, and the parking along Parkview would be a shared use between the park and the school. A proposal for a shared park/school lot with space for 28 cars along Parkview plus an additional 28 car lot using 0.31 acres of park land for a total of 56 parking spots was not approved.

The joint Cabot School Building Committee/ Design Review Committee (CSBC/DRC) meeting is scheduled on October 22, 2015 to provide an update on the parking approval and to move forward on a managed parking approach. An update on the City review of the proposed traffic design will be provided as well. City traffic engineer Bill Paille will attend and review feedback on the site plan and its associated traffic design from the City's traffic cluster.

Cabot user group meetings were held in September and included representatives of school administrative and instructional programs and functions to develop the schematic design documents.

The Design Review Committee has been meeting regularly with the goal of approving 100% schematic design documents and a site plan to be submitted to the Public Facilities Committee recommending a Board of Aldermen public hearing for Sec. 5-58 Site Plan Approval in February 2016. The SD documents will be used for project full cost estimating to be completed in December for inclusion in the City's submission of the Final Schematic Design Package to the MSBA. The city's staff-based design review team is also reviewing and providing input on the schematic design plans.

A joint update to the Board of Alderman and the School Committee is scheduled for early January, prior to the MSBA submission deadline in early February. This submittal has been rescheduled from early December to accommodate more time for schematic design development. Less pre-construction time will be available in the overall schedule as a result.

Key upcoming dates are planned as follows:

November 2, 2015	Joint meeting of Board of Aldermen and School Committee for construction project update
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For more information, including the latest design presentations, please follow the link below:

<http://cabot.projects.joslinlessner.com/>

IV. Aquinas Project

The City Public Buildings Department has consulted with an on call design firm on the window replacement work that is required and has defined a plan for the project; the work will be bid out in November 2015 and awarded by the end of 2015. The demolition and remediation of hazardous materials will be completed over the winter and the window installation will occur in the spring and summer of 2016. Both the convent and main building are expected to meet occupancy standards by August 2016 when the preschool program will move to its planned temporary location in the main building. For insurance purposes, as of November 1, 2015, the main building will be occupied by Public Buildings Department personnel under a temporary certificate of occupancy.

In conjunction with the work conducted this year to ready the building and site for school use in 2016-17, Public Buildings also received approval to request a proposal for a preliminary programming and concept study at Aquinas. DiNisco Design Partnership submitted a scope of work which has been approved.

A Short-Term Aquinas Working Group has been initiated for the planning of both the initial use of the property in 2016-17 as the site of the Newton Early Childhood Program and for the longer-term plans. The Short-Term Working Group held an initial meeting on October 8, 2015 and will work with DiNisco Design Partnership in this preliminary programming effort and concept study, as they conduct a test of fit of both preschool and elementary school uses, and in the development of a preliminary site design outlining expansion to the existing building and organization of the site.