

NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Memorandum

TO: David Fleishman, Superintendent
School Committee

FROM: Sandra Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: January 13, 2014

RE: Angier Elementary School Project
Carr School Swing Space Project
Zervas Elementary School Project
Cabot Elementary School Project
Solar Panel Project

This update addresses information on the Angier Elementary School project, the Carr School swing space project, the Zervas Elementary School project, and the Cabot Elementary School project.

I. Angier Elementary School Project

The Angier School Building Committee and Design Review Committee reviewed the 50% design development drawings at their December 12, 2013 meeting.

Joslin Lesser and Associates (JLA) have been coordinating weekly design development meetings between DiNisco Design Partnership (DDP) and appropriate school and city staff. DDP is nearing completion of 100% design development. Key upcoming dates are as follows:

January 28, 2014	Informational Angier community meeting regarding the move to Carr School
February 3, 2014	School Committee/Board of Aldermen presentation and project update
February 6, 2014	ASBC/DRC review and vote on 100% DD
February 10, 2014	100% Design Development submittal to MSBA

II. Carr School Swing Space Project

Construction is proceeding on schedule. Installation of interior wallboard is completed on the second floor and is progressing on the first floor. The new plaster finish is on going. HVAC, electrical, plumbing and fire protection is ongoing. The staging for the masonry at the elevator addition is complete, the masonry work will follow and the installation of the elevator cab is scheduled to begin in February. The exterior brick on the kindergarten addition is complete. The new windows are scheduled for installation in January. The new water/fire protection service line was installed. Recent photographs of the building may be found at:

http://www3.newton.k12.ma.us/schoolcommittee/documents/linked_resources

III. Zervas Elementary School Project

On December 20, 2013, the City engaged the design services of the Design Partnership of Cambridge (DPC) for the Zervas Project. The Designer Selection Committee (DSC) conducted a comprehensive review of proposals by nine design firms and highly recommended DPC to the Mayor.

On January 9, 2013, the Zervas Working Group met with Design Partnership of Cambridge (DPC) and Joslin Lesser and Associates, the owner's project manager. This was an introductory meeting to discuss design concepts that DPC presented in its interview and to begin developing a schedule for the feasibility study and options analysis.

IV. Cabot Elementary School Project

The Board of Aldermen voted to approve \$1,000,000 for the feasibility study and schematic design services for the Cabot Project. A certified copy of this vote has been submitted to the MSBA as one of the requirements of the MSBA's 270-day Eligibility Period that began on December 4, 2013. The district is making good progress in completing additional preliminary requirements pertaining to enrollment projections and maintenance/capital planning information. A list of school building committee members is being developed by the executive department and must be submitted to the MSBA by February 3, 2014. Timely and successful completion of these requirements will allow the City to be eligible for an MSBA invitation to the Feasibility Study phase.

Although the MSBA allows a total of 270 days for this period, Newton's goal is to submit these materials in a shorter timeframe in order to become eligible for an invitation into the feasibility study phase as soon as possible.

V. Solar Panel Project

The installation of a 685KW photovoltaic system at four schools is in its final phase. The solar panels at Brown and Memorial-Spaulding were both placed in service in late December 2013. The system at Countryside is awaiting an installation of a new meter by NSTAR. At Newton North, 90% of the modules are installed on the roof and the entire installation should be completed by the end of January 2014.

This project is part of a Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) which is a twenty-year lease between the City and with Ameresco Solar, Inc. for the installation of solar panels at the schools listed above. These schools were selected based upon technical criteria including the amount of sunlight on the rooftops and the condition and structural capacity of each roof. Ameresco is responsible for installation, operation, and maintenance of the solar panels over the lease period.

The solar panels are expected to generate approximately 4% of the City's annual energy consumption. Each school will be connected to a meter that measures the amount of electricity generated and NSTAR will credit the City the value of the electricity which is currently calculated to result in approximately \$40,000 in savings in each year of the contract. In addition, there is a buyout option if the City wishes to purchase the solar panels at the end of the agreement; otherwise it is the Ameresco's responsibility to remove the solar panels if the City chooses not to buy them. For more detailed information please see the January 13, 2014 Operations Status Report which is linked below.

http://www3.newton.k12.ma.us/schoolcommittee/documents/linked_resources