

# NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Memorandum

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TO: David Fleishman, Superintendent  
School Committee

FROM: Sandra Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: February 24, 2014

RE: Zervas Elementary School Project Update

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The joint Zervas School Building Committee (ZSBC)/Design Review Committee held its initial meeting on February 6, 2014 where its members were introduced to each other as well as to the project team including representatives from Joslin Lesser and Associates, the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and Design Partnership of Cambridge, the designers.

At the February 24 School Committee meeting, representatives of both the Design Partnership of Cambridge (DPC) and Joslin Lesser and Associates will be introduced and will comment on the status of the project work.

DPC is an employee-owned firm of architects, interior designers, and technology and construction experts. The company has 31 years of experience and has designed over 100 educational institutions. DPC was selected based on high scores in multiple areas including an excellent track record on designs for similar K-12 projects, a commitment to environmentally conscious design, the strength of the project team and the quality of their design ideas. Joslin Lesser and Associates is well-known to the city for their excellent work over the last two years as the OPM for the Angier Elementary School project.

As part of the Long Range Facilities Plan for Elementary Schools, Zervas has been identified as a school which can address capacity issues in the district by being designed as a larger school than its current capacity. While the current Zervas has an enrollment of approximately 320, a new school could be designed to serve a similar sized population as the new Angier School. The Angier design enrollment is 465 students, and this has resulted in a 75,000 square foot building with 22 regular classrooms and several additional full sized classrooms for other programs. The recommended outcome at Zervas is to have 24 regular education classrooms which is the ideal way to accommodate grade cohorts of about 80+ students. In order to match the planned enrollment to the goal of 24 regular education classrooms, the design enrollment may be 490 students to fit to class size guidelines. The presentation on Monday will illustrate how the program planning and enrollment planning come together to produce a school of about 80,000 square feet to serve about 490 students.

The district administration and DPC have begun to develop the educational program for the new Zervas. This process builds upon the educational program completed for the new Angier School and adheres to those standards with a few adjustments including: 24 regular education classrooms, a classroom for the afterschool program, and size adjustments for the music, media

center and cafeteria/kitchen spaces. A spreadsheet illustrating all programs and room sizes will be part of the presentation.

The Zervas feasibility study is proceeding through its initial phases. At the February 6, 2014 joint meeting of the ZSBC/DRC, an overview was provided of the various committees that work together including the following: Design Review Committee (DRC), Zervas School Building Committee (ZSBC), Zervas Working Group (ZWG), PTO, School Committee, Board of Aldermen and the Mayor's Office/Executive Committee.

The elements of a feasibility study were also reviewed including:

- Designing the program
- Evaluating the existing site
- Considering a wide range of sites, including the existing site, against a set of criteria needed to accomplish the program, including the educational program, phasing, logistics, and good design
- Recommendation of a site which meets the interior and exterior programs

JLA has provided a matrix of preliminary criteria for evaluating sites. This matrix will be presented on Monday night.