

NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Memorandum

TO: David Fleishman, Superintendent
School Committee

FROM: Sandra Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 27, 2013

RE: Angier Elementary School Project
Carr School Swing Space Project
Day Middle School Construction Project
Elementary Modular Project
MSBA 2013 Statement of Interest (SOI) Process
Safety and Security Project

This update addresses information on the Angier Elementary School project, the Carr School swing space project, the Day Middle School construction project, the elementary modular project, the MSBA 2013 SOI process, and the safety and security project.

I. Angier Elementary School Project:

The Angier Working Group met on March 7, 2013 to review project status and schedule. On March 20, 2013 the MSBA Facility Assessment Subcommittee met with the DiNisco Design Partnership, Joslin Lesser Associates and city/school representatives to review the preferred schematic design option and elementary program which were submitted to the MSBA on February 14, 2013. The Facility Assessment Subcommittee provided very positive feedback and indicated that Newton's educational program was excellent. The MSBA Board of Directors will vote on the preferred schematic design option on April 3, 2013. Next steps will include working on a schedule for completion of the schematic design, developing the schematic design, and preparing for a scope and budget submittal to the MSBA as well the local 5-58 approvals process.

The City Purchasing Department advertised the request for proposals for a construction manager-at-risk for the project on March 13, 2013 with a bid deadline of March 27, 2013. The prequalification/selection committees will be reading the proposals and meeting on April 11, 2013 to discuss bidder prequalification and to submit requests for more information as needed. Construction project manager-at-risk interviews will be held on May 9, 2013.

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a public hearing on March 18, 2013 to consider shared use of the Angier School Playground for the purposes of parking, temporary construction activities, emergency access, play structures and removal of trees. The Commission supported the continued shared parking arrangement between the playground and school users with approximately 35 new parking spaces located on the playground. They also supported emergency access on the playground along the edge of the school, temporary use of the playground for construction-related activities, removal of the existing play structure, creation of two new play structures post-construction, and the removal of existing trees and replanting of new trees.

In compliance with state regulations for historic buildings, the City submitted a Project Notification Form to the Massachusetts Historic Commission (MHC) on February 21, 2013 requesting an MHC review of the preferred option to demolish and replace the existing building. The MHC's role is to provide information, technical assistance, and a forum to assist project proponents in developing projects that consider historic values and preserve the Commonwealth's historic heritage. The MHC has thirty days to respond; a response is expected soon.

On March 14, 2013 representatives of the Angier Working Group met with members of the Angier school community who have been volunteering their time to develop an Angier history project. At the meeting the group shared ideas for including the school's history into the new building project. The team will be meeting with the Newton Historic Commission at its April 25, 2013 meeting to discuss these ideas and obtain feedback.

II. Carr School Swing Space Project:

On March 13, 2013, the Public Buildings Department gave an informational presentation to the Carr neighborhood on the design, construction schedule and transportation planning. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period. The City Planning Department informed the group that a traffic study is being conducted to develop a parent drop-off and pick up-plan.

The Design Review Committee will be reviewing construction documents and final design plans at their March 27, 2013 meeting. The Public Buildings Department's tentative schedule includes docketing a funding request before the Board of Aldermen on April 5, 2013 in order to complete hearings and approvals by early June 2013 so that construction may begin by July 1, 2013.

The request for qualification (RFQ) for general contractors and subcontractors was released on March 21, 2013 with a submission deadline of April 4, 2013. An ad for bids by prequalified bidders will be released on April 25, 2013 and bids will be due on May 14, 2013.

III. Day Middle School Construction Project:

Construction continues to progress on schedule despite the weather challenges that occurred in March. Installation of the exterior enclosure is nearing completion and installation of exterior masonry and windows will begin in April 2013. Considerable progress has been made on installation of mechanical systems in both the administration and classroom additions. Framing of interior partitions is 90% complete in the administration area and is in progress on the first floor of the classroom addition area. Interior partitions will be framed on the second floor, and new third floor exterior walls will be installed as soon as the existing roof, which is currently being demolished, is completely removed.

Coordination of schedules for furnishing purchases, delivery and installation is underway. Similarly, the construction schedule for installation of sprinklers, fire alarm systems and summer projects by other contractors are being discussed with the Public Buildings Department at weekly meetings to ensure smooth coordination and transitions. Summer projects look to include refinishing the gym floor, installing new seats in the auditorium, painting, installing lockers and converting flooring from carpet to tile in corridors. The Day administration will be temporarily moving back to the Central High annex at the Education Center during the summer.

Please follow the link below to view updated photographs of the construction project:

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

IV. Elementary Modular Project:

As part of the City's site plan approval process, the Design Review Committee (DRC) voted unanimously on March 5, 2013 to approve site plans for the following projects: one modular classroom each at Burr and Horace Mann, four modular classrooms at Bowen, and up to four modular classrooms in a one-story configuration at Mason-Rice. The DRC's petition for site plan approval is Board of Aldermen docket #113-13 and a public hearing on the site plan will be held by the Public Facilities Committee on April 3, 2013. The DRC will be reviewing construction documents and final design plans at their March 27, 2013 meeting. The Public Buildings Department's tentative schedule anticipates bidding the project on April 10, 2013, Board of Aldermen approval of construction funds in early May 2013, and a construction contract in place by the end of May 2013.

V. MSBA 2013 Statement of Interest (SOI) Process:

The Statement of Interest for Cabot Elementary School was unanimously approved by the Board of Aldermen on March 18, 2013. The SOI was submitted to the MSBA for consideration in the MSBA's online submission program on March 22, 2013 and the hard copy originals were mailed to the MSBA. The MSBA's deadline for all school districts is April 10, 2013.

VI. Safety and Security Project:

The Public Buildings Department has scheduled and coordinated work with the contractors, Lan-Tel, New England School Service (NESS) and Your Electrical Solutions (Y.E.S). Lan-Tel and NESS recently worked together on an identical project in a neighboring community. Equipment has been ordered. Work will begin in the next few weeks beginning with the schools on the top priority tier. The total timeline to complete this work is 6-8 weeks with a significant amount being completed during April vacation week.