

# 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: June 17, 2013

RE: Angier Elementary School Project  
Carr School Swing Space Project  
Day Middle School Construction Project  
Elementary Modular Project  
Security Project

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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 and the security project.

### I. Angier Elementary School Project:

On May 10, 2013, the construction manager selection committee unanimously selected the Newton firm of W.T. Rich as construction-manager-at-risk for the project. The firm has extensive experience building public schools. The committee indicated that W.T. Rich will be a great fit with the design/project management team and will be very sensitive to community concerns. Having the construction manager on board during the schematic design phase provides valuable evaluations of cost estimating and constructability of the building design and systems.

Over the past few weeks, the design team of DiNisco Design Partnership (DDP) has been refining designs and is currently at 50% schematic design. In developing the schematic design and site plan, DDP has met with various city and school staff and key committees. The goal of these meetings was to inform and to receive feedback on the 50% schematic design. Meetings included:

May 15, 2013: City's advisory Design Review Team  
May 15, 2013: Design Review Committee  
May 23, 2013: Angier School Building Committee/Design Review Committee (ASBC/DRC)  
May 29, 2013: Angier Parent/Community update meeting  
June 3, 2013: Joint Board of Aldermen/School Committee meeting  
June 12, 2013: ASBC/DRC meeting

At the June 12, 2013 ASBC/DRC meeting, the committees voted to approve the 50% schematic design and scope and to authorize the project team to continue to the 100% schematic design. There has been interest expressed by various groups regarding plans for environmentally sound, high efficiency standards for the building envelope and mechanical systems. High efficiency standards, if met, will make the building eligible for extra reimbursement points by the

Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA.) To this end, the design team has also been working with school administrators, the Public Buildings Department and the Angier Working Group to understand the programmatic needs of various parts of the building (e.g., administration, library, cafeteria, classrooms, gym) and to understand the costs associated with options for controlling the indoor environment including air-conditioning and dehumidification systems. The design team, the Angier Working Group and the school administration fully support the plan for air-conditioning contained in the 50% schematic design as it enables building use flexibility and allows for the best teaching and learning environments. Air-conditioning is an allowable cost in MSBA projects. A full life cycle cost analysis of the HVAC system will be addressed in the design development phase scheduled to begin once the schematic design is completed and approved by the MSBA.

The following are upcoming key meetings for the Schematic Design (SD) Phase:

June 26, 2013:	City's advisory DRT meeting (site review for site plan approval process)
July 18, 2013:	DRC site review and ASBC/DRC meeting to vote on the 100% SD
July 25, 2013:	Submit cost estimate to MSBA
August 8, 2013:	Submit SD package to MSBA

The focus of the schedule is to have the Angier project on the MSBA's October 2, 2013 Board of Directors meeting agenda for a vote to approve the project scope and budget agreement. The MSBA and City processes run concurrently with the Board of Aldermen taking a final vote on the project approval and funding after the MSBA vote. As a result, public hearings and meetings of the Board of Aldermen will take place during the month of September 2013.

#### II. Carr School Swing Space Project:

During the past few weeks, the project team hired a clerk of the works, testing and inspection agents and a furnishing consultant. On June 4, 2013, prequalified general contractor bids were opened and Castanga Construction was selected as the lowest bidder at a price of \$10,734,000. On June 10, 2013, the Board of Aldermen's Programs and Services, Public Facilities, and Finance Committees approved the funding request for the project. The full Board of Aldermen will vote on June 17, 2013. Assuming approval is received, funds will be available after the 20-day waiting period with a July 8, 2013 construction start date.

#### III. Day Middle School Construction Project:

Considerable progress has been made in the past month. Installation of windows and the brick façade is complete in both additions. Framing of interior partitions and mechanical systems are complete in both additions. Interior finishes are well underway, including millwork, painting, ceiling grids, floor tiles, and ceramic tiles. On June 8, 2013 the electrical systems were tied into the building's subpanels and equipment. The two-week look ahead schedule includes the following: completion of finishes and millwork, foundation work at the main entry vestibule, and construction of the exterior handicap access ramp.

Schedules for purchase, delivery and installation of furnishings and technology are on-going. Sprinkler work will begin as soon as the school closes for summer vacation. The Day administration will temporarily move to the Central High annex at the Education Center. Weekly meetings are being held to ensure smooth coordination between construction work and other summer projects for the building.

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

[http://www3.newton.k12.ma.us/schoolcommittee/documents/linked\\_resources](http://www3.newton.k12.ma.us/schoolcommittee/documents/linked_resources)

#### IV. Elementary Modular Project:

The contract with Triumph Modular has been executed. The Public Buildings Department will begin preliminary site preparations such as removal/relocation of benches and trees, as appropriate. A kick-off planning meeting was held on June 6, 2013. Construction will begin on July 2, 2013. The contract calls for the project to be completed by August 19, 2013.

#### V. Security Project:

On June 3, 2013 the new security video/audio/buzzer systems were fully functional at three pilot schools: Bigelow, Bowen and Ward. The district is working with these schools to work out any concerns with the system or the new procedures. Appropriate employees have been trained on the use of the equipment. All school employees, including teachers/aides, administrators, nurses, custodians, Whitsons employees and any authorized interns, were issued photo ID badges which replace the previous fob devices to open all doors that have card readers. Lincoln-Eliot's video/audio/buzzer system, installed in 2012, continues to be utilized; however, two card readers were added and photo ID badges were issued.

All equipment is now installed at all schools. Employee training on use of the equipment at remaining schools will take place during the summer. On June 4, 2013 the photographer began taking photos and issuing ID badges at the remaining buildings with photography sessions scheduled daily through June 21, 2013. Employees at the high schools will be issued photo ID badges to enable them to have access to the Education Center and any other building in which they may work. There will a photo make-up day for absentees on June 27, 2013 at a location to be determined.