

# 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: September 10, 2012

RE: Facilities Update: Angier Elementary School Construction Project  
Carr School Swing Space  
Day Middle School Construction Project  
Summer Maintenance/Building Improvement Projects  
Solar Panel Project at Five Schools  
Newton South Cameras – Phase II

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This update addresses information on the Angier School construction project, the status of the Carr School as swing space, the Day Middle School project update, the status of summer maintenance/building improvement projects and a proposal to install solar panels at five schools.

### I. Angier Elementary School Construction Project:

In late June, the City selected the firm of Joslin Lesser and Associates (JLA) as the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and the selection was confirmed by the MSBA OPM Review Panel. JLA has been working since early July, focusing on the designer selection process and working with the City on preliminary schedules for the Feasibility Study. On August 16<sup>th</sup> the City received proposals from five firms in response to the Request for Designer Services. In accordance with MSBA requirements, Maureen Lemieux, Jonathan Yeo and Sandra Guryan have been assigned from the Executive Office, the School Committee, and the Superintendent's office to participate on the MSBA's Designer Selection Panel for the Angier project. JLA will meet with the Angier Working Group and the City's three members on September 13, 2012 to discuss the selection process protocols and to prepare for the Designer Selection Panel meeting on September 18, 2012. It is anticipated that the Designer will be selected and will begin work on the Feasibility Study by the beginning of October. The Angier School Building Committee will also meet on September 13, 2012 to be brought up to date on scheduling plans and will continue to meet regularly during the feasibility study phase which will conclude in January 2013.

### II. Carr School Swing Space:

The design firm of Turowski<sup>2</sup> Architecture has been working since June and has been meeting weekly with the city/school working group on design and scope options. A preliminary meeting with the Design Review Committee was held on July 26, 2012 to provide early feedback on potential design options. The design team has been reviewing and updating program requirements and related space needs and has been working with structural and mechanical engineers, landscape designers and food service consultants.

The scope of the Carr renovation will provide for an elementary school that houses twenty classrooms and has dedicated spaces for administrative and specialist offices, a library, music and art rooms, a cafeteria and a gym. Building improvements will include an elevator to make the school accessible, fire sprinklers and mechanical system improvements. A new roof, new windows and an upgraded heating and ventilation system are included subject to funding.

The Design Review Committee (DRC) met on August 30, 2012. At this meeting Sandra Guryan presented the Long Range Elementary School Plan to illustrate Carr School's utilization as swing space over the long term. In addition, designers and mechanical engineers discussed life cycle costs of various options for upgrading the HVAC/mechanical systems including the option of converting the building to a hot water system. The Committee requested more information from the mechanical engineers for review at the September DRC meeting.

### III. Day Middle School Construction Project:

The construction firm of Colantonio, Inc. has been working steadily since July 18, 2012. The Day administrative and student services staff moved back from its summer home at the Education Center into its temporary space at Day. The cafeteria expansion has been completed on time as well and is currently in use, allowing for three lunch periods instead of five. The interior demolition of the existing administrative and student services spaces has been completed along with the necessary utility relocation work. The work areas were secured and access to the school and parking areas was in place before the commencement of school. Colantonio will continue to work on the front addition and rear renovation/addition throughout the school year.

### IV. Summer Maintenance/Building Improvement Projects:

While each summer is busy with projects to improve school buildings, this summer was particularly challenging due to the Day Middle School construction project. The Day administrative space was moved for two months to the Education Center while the new temporary administrative space at Day was completed. The Public Buildings Department, the Fire Department's wire division and the contractors are commended for the work they accomplished in a short time, not only at Day but at other buildings as well.

### Additional construction projects this summer included:

- Burr, Horace Mann and Zervas – Installation of fire sprinkler systems was completed.
- Horace Mann – Renovation was completed to create an additional classroom; the installation of an elevator and accessible water fountain was also completed.
- Peirce – Elevator installation was completed.
- Countryside Cafetorium Retractable Wall – Support walls have been built and retractable wall panels will be in place by the end of October. The space continues to be used as a cafeteria.
- Classroom Door Lock Upgrade – As part of a Safe Schools Healthy Schools grant obtained by the Newton Partnership, classroom door locks at the elementary and middle schools were replaced with new locks that allow the outer handle of the door to be locked with a key from within the classroom, providing for a safer environment in the event of a school lock down.

In addition to the construction projects, highlights of summer maintenance work included:

- Space renovations to accommodate enrollments and/or programmatic needs.
- Thirty-one bathroom renovations, including new partitions, epoxy floors, fixtures as needed.
- Approximately 70 classrooms and offices were painted as well as numerous corridors, stairwells, and other spaces in addition to the painting of 31 bathrooms listed above.



- Carpet was replaced with vinyl tile in 26 classrooms and new replacement tiles were installed in many lobbies, main offices, corridors and library spaces across the district.

A detailed report of summer projects will be available for the School Committee in October.

V. Solar Panel Project at Five Schools:

This project began in FY11 and is now moving forward with Ameresco Solar, Inc. The proposed project will install solar panels on the rooftops of five schools: Newton North, Brown, Memorial-Spaulding, Countryside and Bowen. On July 18, 2012 Chief Operating Officer Robert Rooney requested authorization from the Board of Aldermen to enter into a twenty-year lease with Ameresco to install, operate, and maintain the solar panels over the lease period and for the City to pay for the energy produced by Ameresco during this period through a Power Purchase Agreement. Once the panels are operational, the City will receive credit from NStar for the metered energy produced by the solar panels and sent to the electric grid based on meters at each of the schools. The Board of Aldermen's Public Facilities Committee voted on September 5, 2012 to approve the Executive Department's request and it will be considered by the Finance Committee on September 10, 2012.

VI. Newton South Security Cameras – Phase II:

A request for proposals for 63 additional security cameras at Newton South went out to bid on June 21, 2012 and bids were opened on July 6, 2012. ENE Systems was awarded the bid. A kick-off construction meeting will be held on September 12, 2012. The Department of Justice COPS grant obtained by the Newton Police Department funded the initial security camera installations and is also funding this phase of the work. It is expected that all cameras will be installed by December 2012, with the contractor working in the late afternoons and evenings.