

NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Memorandum

TO: David Fleishman, Superintendent
School Committee

FROM: Sandra Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: October 1, 2012

RE: Facilities Update: Angier Elementary School Construction Project
Carr School Swing Space
Day Middle School Construction Project
Solar Panel Project at Four Schools
Newton South Cameras – Phase II
CIP: City Update on Long-Range Plan

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, a proposal to install solar panels at four schools, an update on phase II of the Newton South security cameras, and an update on the City Long-Range Capital Plan. Potential short-term space needs are being reviewed and will be discussed on October 22, 2012 as part of the update on enrollment.

I. Angier Elementary School Construction Project:

Joslin Lesser Associates (JLA), the City's Owner's Project Manager, met with the Angier School Building Committee, which includes the Design Review Committee, on September 13, 2012 to bring the group up to date with the project and the preliminary schedule. The Angier School Building Committee will meet next on October 18, 2012 and will continue to meet regularly during the feasibility study phase that will conclude in March 2013.

In accordance with MSBA requirements, Maureen Lemieux, Jonathan Yeo and Sandra Guryan were assigned from the Executive Office, the School Committee, and the Superintendent's Office to participate on the MSBA's 16-member Designer Selection Panel (DSP) for the Angier project. On September 18, 2012 the Panel reviewed and considered five designer applicants and voted unanimously to invite DiNisco Design Partnership and HMFH Architects to be interviewed before the DSP on October 2, 2012. The purpose of these interviews is for the DSP to further review each applicant's qualification for this project. Please note that Jonathan Yeo will be unable to attend the October 2, 2012 DSP meeting due to a previous commitment. Joslin Lesser (OPM) has confirmed with the MSBA that Steven Siegel will represent the School Committee in the Designer Selection Process as requested by School Committee Chair Claire Sokoloff. It is anticipated that the Designer will be selected at that meeting and will begin work on the Feasibility Study by early October 2012.

II. Carr School Swing Space:

The design firm of Turowski² Architecture has been in place since June 2012 and has been meeting weekly with the city/school working in the schematic design phase on scope and options.

On September 20, 2012 the Design Review Committee (DRC) unanimously approved the site plan for the project. The Public Facilities and Finance Committees of the Board of Aldermen will review the site plan on October 17, 2012 and October 22, 2012, respectively. If approved by these committees the full Board of Aldermen will vote on the site plan on October 29, 2012. In order to proceed with the design development phase of the project, the City will request funds for the remaining design development work.

III. Day Middle School Construction Project:

Site, utility work, including tie-in of water service, continues and foundation work for the front addition has begun. Construction of a retaining wall in the dumpster area is in progress. The new entry sidewalk, service ramp and removal of an underground tank have been completed. The project schedule remains unchanged. The project team, including HMFH Architects, School Department staff, Public Buildings Department staff and Colantonio conduct weekly coordination meetings of the project and on-going school activities.

On September 26, 2012, workers were tying in a new water loop to feed the sprinkler system when part of the wall slipped undermining the duct bank and pulling power away from the electrical transformer. This caused a power outage and damage to the transformer as well as some leakage of electrical coolant typically used in such facilities. In response to this, Public Buildings staff, the Newton Fire Department and Inspectional Services as well as school staff worked together rapidly to ameliorate the issues. The Fire Chief inspected the access to the building to confirm emergency access. An electrical generator was obtained to handle the school power needs until permanent repairs are made. The coolant was inspected and was safely cleaned up. In addition to this, employee parking has been evaluated and is moved from the construction areas for the present time. There was no interruption in school for students as of September 27, 2012. Public Buildings has notified all abutters about the continuing work and the temporary generator in use. Mike Cronin will be available on October 1 to provide an update and to answer questions about the incident.

IV. Solar Panel Project at Four Schools:

This project was proposed in FY11 and is now moving forward with Ameresco Solar, Inc. On September 19, 2012, the Board of Aldermen approved the installation of solar arrays on the rooftops of four schools: Newton North, Brown, Memorial-Spaulding and Countryside. The City will 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. Energy credits from solar generation of electricity will defray City leasing costs for installation. Through the rates negotiated with Ameresco, the schools could save money on energy costs. Construction will begin after the 20-day reconsideration period has ended.

VI. Newton South Security Cameras – Phase II:

ENE Security, the contractor for Phase 2, held a kickoff construction meeting on September 12, 2012 at Newton South with the project team including Principal Joel Stenbridge, city and school representatives and the project engineer. They have begun wiring cable for the additional 63 cameras that are anticipated to be operational by the end of December 2012.

VII. CIP Update to School Committee:

Maureen Lemieux will be present at the October 1, 2012 School Committee meeting to provide an overview of the City's work on a long-term capital plan. Maureen will show the inclusion of school facility projects into the City's overall 5 year and 20 year plans. This will include both the long-range school projects and the many other capital maintenance projects such as roofing, windows, boilers, handicapped access and the like. This discussion will precede the Mayor's full presentation to the Board of Aldermen on October 15, 2012.