

NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Office of Business, Finance and Planning

M e m o r a n d u m

TO: David Fleishman, Superintendent

FROM: Sandra Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer
Joseph Russo, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
Cynthia Bergan, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education

DATE: November 26, 2012 (6 pm)

RE: Elementary and Middle School Space Recommendations

As a follow up to the November 1, 2012 elementary and middle school space update, this memo addresses recommendations for managing future growth over the next two to four school years.

Elementary Recommendations

Six elementary schools have been identified with space needs over the next four years. These schools are Angier, Bowen, Burr, Horace Mann, Lincoln-Eliot and Mason-Rice. In addition, space is needed to address some anticipated special education needs in the district along with some flexibility in the Newton Centre area (Mason-Rice, Bowen, Zervas) where overcrowding exists and classroom space has been exhausted at the existing facilities. It should be noted that included in all the recommendations is a review of current buffer zones with possible expansions or additions to be utilized where an impact on enrollment is achievable. Any changes will be made prior to the kindergarten enrollment timeframe.

For each school, the following four options were considered in the November 1st memo:

- Reallocation of Space: Internal renovation or reallocation of space to accommodate more classrooms.
- Modular Classrooms: Installation of new modular classrooms.
- Current Buffer Zones: Expanded use of current buffer zones.
- New Buffer Zones: Explore creating new buffer zones.

The recommendations listed below are in priority order for each school. Buffer zones were explored thoroughly in the November 1st memo and will be reserved as an option for all schools.

Angier (one additional classroom needed in 2013-2014 for expected enrollment increase)

1. Reallocate internal space to allow for one more regular classroom. Possible solutions include using the existing specialist spaces as a regular education classroom; there are no more spaces readily available. The district will also examine new students in the current Angier/Countryside buffer zone to consider assigning students to Countryside.

Bowen (three to four additional classrooms to address enrollment growth in 2013-2014 and current overcrowding in grades 1-4)

1. Purchase and install two double-stacked modular units for a total of four new classrooms. The existing modular classroom at Bowen will be moved to another school building, possibly Burr or Horace Mann, resulting in a net increase of three new classrooms. *This recommendation is subject to site constraints.*
2. Reallocate internal space to make use of specialist spaces.
3. Make internal renovations.

Burr (one additional classroom needed in 2013-2014 for expected enrollment increase)

1. Install one modular classroom. This modular classroom may be reallocated from Bowen or a new purchase.
2. Reallocate internal space to make use of a current art room as a regular classroom.
3. Build a new classroom in part of the lower-level cafeteria.

Horace Mann (one additional classroom needed in 2013-2014 for expected enrollment increase)

1. Install one modular classroom. This classroom may be reallocated from Bowen or a new purchase.
2. Renovate internal space to make use of a basement room currently being used by the afterschool program and/or a space located between two modular classrooms.

Lincoln-Eliot (one additional classroom needed in 2013-2014 for expected enrollment increase and current enrollment concerns at K)

1. Relocate the preschool program to another building to free up four regular classrooms.
2. Relocate specialist spaces to allow for more regular classrooms.

Mason-Rice (address enrollment concerns in grades 3-5 in 2013-2014, and provide needed flexible classroom and special education space in 2014-15 through 2016-17 at Mason Rice and other South High School feeding elementary schools)

1. Purchase and install two double-stacked modular units for a total of four new classrooms. Note: This will require sprinkler installation.
2. Reallocate internal space to make use of one basement classroom currently being used by the afterschool program; there are no more spaces readily available.

Middle School Recommendations

Three middle schools have been identified with space needs over the next two years including Bigelow, Brown and Oak Hill. The Day construction project will be completed by next fall; the addition of six new classrooms will provide enough capacity for the next several years of enrollment at Day. In addition, part of the need for space is the adjustment of large team sizes that have increased over the past few years at all four middle schools.

Enrollments at the middle schools for 2013-2014 indicate the need for *at least* one additional half team at all four middle schools, requiring at least two additional classrooms at Bigelow, Brown and Oak Hill. The recommendations listed below are in priority order for each school.

Bigelow (two additional classrooms needed in 2013-2014 for expected enrollment increase)

1. Create a new Bigelow/Day buffer zone in the Cabot district currently feeding into Bigelow, to allow flexibility in enrollment between the two middle schools. This buffer zone will allow the move of up to 34 students from Bigelow to Day in 2013-2014.
2. Review location of the specialized program temporarily housed at Bigelow during Day construction.

Brown (two to four additional classrooms needed in 2013-2014 for expected enrollment increase)

1. Reconfigure existing space to add two to four additional classrooms.
2. Relocate special education or other districtwide programs.

Oak Hill (two additional classrooms needed in 2013-2014 for expected enrollment increase)

1. Reconfigure existing space to add up to two additional classrooms.
2. Relocate special education or other districtwide programs.

**Elementary School Classrooms Needed and Recommended Solutions
FY13 through FY18**

Schools	Number of Additional Classrooms Needed (Arrays)							Recommended Solutions:
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total	
North Feeding:								
Burr		1		1	1		3	One Modular; Reallocate Internal Space; Buffer Zone to Franklin
Cabot					At Carr	At Carr	0	New School by 2018-19
Franklin	1				1		2	Districtwide Program will be fully relocated by 2015-16
Horace Mann		1					1	One Modular; Reallocation of Space; Buffer Zones to Lincoln-Eliot or Franklin
Lincoln-Eliot		1		1			2	Relocate Preschool; Reallocate Internal Space
Peirce					1		1	Buffer Zones; Reallocation of Space
Underwood	2	1					3	Space Available
Ward	1				1		2	Space Available
Total North Feeding	4	4	0	2	4	0	14	
South Feeding:								
Angier	1	1	At Carr	At Carr	1	1	4	Buffer Zone to Countryside; Reallocation of Space; New School by 2016-17
Bowen	1	1				1	3	Replace single modular with 2 doubles (site dependent); Internal Space; Buffer Zones
Countryside					-1		-1	Space Available
Mason-Rice		1					1	Four Modulares (2 doubles; sprinklers required); Buffer Zones
Memorial-Spaulding	1						1	
Williams				1			1	Mid-range Expansion by 2018-19 (City CIP)
Zervas						1	1	Full Expansion by 2017-18
Total South Feeding	3	3	0	1	0	3	10	
Total Elementary	7	7	0	3	4	3	24	

Total # classrooms	263	270	270	273	277	280
Average Class Size	22.0	21.7	21.9	21.8	21.6	21.5
Projected Enrollment	5,790	5,851	5,935	5,975	6,003	6,048
Enrollment Increase from Prior Year	103	61	84	40	28	45
Cumulative Enrollment Increase		164	248	288	316	361