

NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Memorandum

TO: David Fleishman, Superintendent

FROM: Sandra Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer
Michael Cronin, Chief of Operations

DATE: September 26, 2011

RE: Facilities Update

This update on short-term facilities will focus on the status of the Day Middle School renovation project. In addition, there are brief updates on the elementary modular project and the progress on the update of the long-term school facilities plan.

Day Middle School Renovation:

Design work for the Day Middle School renovation has proceeded over the summer and into September. The proposal for the addition of six classrooms, the move and construction of the new entry and administrative office, the modification of the current entry, and the expansion of the cafeteria is nearly complete. The design work includes plans that will be used in the preparation of schematic designs as the project moves forward. The architects have studied the costs and it is expected that cost summaries will be presented at the September 26, 2011 School Committee meeting.

The review process has included a comparison option for Day with the goal of reducing costs while still providing six additional classrooms and the enlarged cafeteria. This option will be presented for comparison purposes and does not include the revised entries to the school. The comparative costs will be provided and will show a relatively small difference between the options due to the difference in costs of new construction and renovated space in the school.

The cost summaries will also show the costs of the required sprinkler systems and other life safety systems such as fire alarms which are required to meet current codes for the middle school.

Enrollments at Day have met and exceeded last year's projection with a population of 845 students as compared to the projection of 831 students. This growth has confirmed the need for the six additional teaching spaces. In addition, there is the expected increase in students with special needs to match the population growth. This has resulted in a need for more instructional spaces. Brian Turner, Principal, has worked during the summer to convert various small office spaces into teaching spaces for the many programs at Day ranging from Tech Engineering, now in the TV Studio, to space for the

Bridge program, additional counseling spaces, and integrated classroom spaces. Brian will be available to provide more information about the space constraints at Day.

Elementary Modular Classrooms:

Triumph was awarded the contract for installing modular classrooms at Burr, Horace Mann and Zervas elementary schools. They have conducted site visits with members of the Public Buildings and Operations Departments. Triumph will begin as quickly as possible starting with site clearing at Burr school on September 26th, assuming City permits can be issued in time. The City inspector assigned to this project was the inspector for the 2007 installation of modulars at five elementary schools. Close communication with school principals has begun and will continue ensuring their questions and concerns are addressed. The following is a synopsis of steps being taken as of this writing:

- On September 22nd, Triumph will meet with Inspectional Services to apply for demolition, foundation and building permits.
- Construction will begin first at Burr, followed by Horace Mann and Zervas. A formal written timeline for each of the three projects will be submitted by October 3rd or earlier.
- Site clearing will begin at Burr as soon as the demolition permit is received, hopefully, on September 26th or soon thereafter.
- As soon as the building permit is issued, interior work at Burr can begin preferably on a day when school is closed, possibly Thursday, September 29th or Saturday, October 1st.
- CORI checks will be conducted.
- Principals have been asked for their preferred changes in emergency egress. This information is being sent to the City for review and approval. New routes will be posted in the schools.
- The Operations Department will meet with principals to review site use during construction including staging, office trailer, deliveries and employee vehicles.
- Contractor hours will be 7 am to 7 pm; any building-intrusive work will be conducted after school hours and/or Saturdays from 8 am to 7 pm or on holidays. Work during the school day will be conducted in a manner which respects teaching schedules and recess times.
- The City's tree warden has been contacted about the possible removal of a tree on City property adjacent to the Horace Mann modular location. Removal of the tree would improve construction access to the site.

Long Term Facilities Plan Update:

HMFH Architects/ Lori Cowles and team are currently bringing the 2007 Facilities Review up to date with current information. The physical review of the schools is complete, and the data is being prepared so that the School Committee will receive the report and a presentation on October 11, 2011. In addition, HMFH has received the current school enrollments and updated draft enrollment projections so the demographic portion of the review can be completed. The School Committee will have the opportunity to review the report and the long-term plan to address school facilities prior to its incorporation into the City's long range facilities plan, slated to be presented to the Board of Aldermen on October 17, 2011.