

# NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Office of Business, Finance and Planning

## Memorandum

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TO: David Fleishman, Superintendent  
School Committee

FROM: Sandra Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: November 22, 2010

RE: Short-Term Space Recommendations

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This memo will serve as the Newton Public School administrative recommendation for limited capital projects to address short-term space needs at elementary and middle schools in the district. The recommendation is the result of several years of review of needs and planning for projected student enrollment.

### **Background**

The middle school short-term space needs were identified in 2007 and planned for by school and city administrators and by School Committee Facilities Committees. As part of this work, space needs at Oak Hill Middle School were identified and four modular classrooms were purchased and installed during the summer of 2010 to address the increasing middle school population.

This proposal addresses short-term elementary and middle school space needs and will be funded with one-time bonded funds by the City of Newton not to exceed \$5 million. It is expected that middle school space needs will be met for the next 10 years by the combined additional space at Oak Hill (complete) and Day Middle School, to be completed in 2012. Elementary school short-term needs will also be addressed by this proposal. The full range of elementary school needs will be addressed as the Long-Term Capital Facilities Plan is developed and approved for the city.

The middle school population growth and current building space have been reviewed at all schools, both in the Long Range Facilities Plan approved in June 2008 and during the past year. This recommendation is presented after several months of public review of all aspects of the enrollment trends, building capacities, and programmatic needs. A number of alternatives were carefully considered including taking no action, redistricting students, numerous renovation options, and timing of space needs.

The elementary school space needs have been evaluated annually at all schools by principals and central office administrators including operations staff. Modular classrooms have been installed over the past four years at Bowen, Cabot, Horace Mann, Peirce and Zervas. Enrollment projections and programmatic needs have been studied at each school leading to a prioritized list of short-term space needs.

**The recommendation is as follows:**

Middle Schools: Renovate and expand the Day Middle School to provide 6 new classroom teaching spaces to address needs for team teaching and other special subjects including English Language Learners and Special Education; expand cafeteria space and seating to accommodate 300 students; redesign and possible relocation of administrative offices to provide building access, security and oversight; address parking as possible.

Estimated Cost: \$3.5-\$3.8 million

Timeframe: Design 2011; construction 2011-12 for September 2012

Elementary Schools: Design including site plans, purchase and install up to six (6) modular classrooms at five elementary schools including in alphabetical order:

Burr – 1 classroom  
Countryside – 1 classroom  
Horace Mann – 1 classroom  
Mason-Rice – 1 classroom  
Zervas – 2 classrooms

It is recommended that the bid specifications for modular classrooms include both the standard modulars (as installed in current elementary school locations) and “green” modulars (as installed at Oak Hill Middle School).

Estimated Cost: \$1.2-\$1.65 million

Timeframe: Bid in early 2011; installed in summer 2011 for September 2011