



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
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Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor
Josh Morse
Building Commissioner

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Re: Final School HVAC Project Update

On September 20th, 2020, Newton Public Schools requested that Public Buildings work with their Facilities team to complete the most aggressive and comprehensive ventilation system enhancement program I have ever heard of. Over a 146 day period, the following team led the charge to service, adjust, modify, test, replace, repair, retest, and audit more than 100,000 pieces of HVAC equipment in, and supporting, almost 2,000 classrooms, offices, and support spaces within 24 school buildings throughout Newton:

David Stickney: David is one of the hardest working individuals I will ever have the pleasure of working with. Anyone who spends a day with this man will understand that he cares deeply for the staff and students of Newton Public Schools. His technical skill sets rival any contractor we have ever hired, yet he can flawlessly transition to a board room, classroom, or office and convert technical information into simple terms to make staff and students feel at ease. This man literally bleeds for this district on a routine basis. His dedication to the staff and students in everything he does is unmatched and should never be questioned.

David Virgilio: David is a Master Electrician, Newton resident, father of two children in Newton Public Schools, building automation and controls technician, and is an asset that quite frankly I am surprised we are lucky enough to have. His qualifications and skill sets make him a priceless employee, supporting the district and the City of Newton. David is a calm steady force. In the face of tremendous pressure, with a phone that never stops ringing, he is composed and kind to everyone he speaks with.

Arthur Cabral: Arthur has worked tirelessly for the City of Newton for 46 years, so I don't think I need to speak to his commitment. Arthur was critical in keeping everything on track with this project. We worked with hundreds of contractors, testing agencies, vendors, and suppliers, and he kept them all straight. His efforts behind the scenes were critical in ensuring that everything ran perfectly in the field. He maintained schedules, records, and logistics for the entire operation. Any time we needed anything, he immediately delivered. Without his efforts, this project could not have been completed.

The above employees worked every day and night for 146 days straight. They were up working between 3am and 4am every day, and they were still at it until close to midnight. Every. Single. Day. They sacrificed time with their family. They missed holidays. They gave of themselves endlessly and without hesitation. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

This will be my final update letter regarding the ventilation project in Newton Public Schools. Final dashboards, test and balance reports, and service reports make up close to 10,000 pages of backup currently posted on the NPS website. There are less than ten rooms in a handful of schools where the district is moving forward with new ventilation systems in the coming months. These spaces will be tested by the district upon completion of the work. Any additional information related to ventilation work in the schools, will be included in the Facilities and Operations Report from Liam Hurley and his team.

One new addition to the dashboards is a column that shows the “Nominal Occupancy Supported by Measured Fresh Air.” This datapoint will help the staff, students, and parents understand the relationship fresh air flow has on the number of occupants in a given space and responds to a common question I’ve fielded in the schools. This datapoint is another method of displaying how our ventilation systems are ready to support full staff and student occupancy.

I would like to thank the more than 1,000 contract employees from the following companies who worked night and day with us on this project:

Project Engineers

- Marty Vickey and David Bennett III from C.A.Crowley Engineering, Inc. have been instrumental in every step of this project. They have worked tirelessly around the clock, and we would not be where we are now without their tremendous work.

HVAC Contractors

- Associated Mechanical Services
- Cox Engineering Service Co.
- Fraser Engineering
- General Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc.
- Harold Brothers
- Mighty Duct
- NB Kenney Company
- Boston Mechanical Services
- Patrick J. Kennedy & Sons Inc
- Bay State Air
- Corporate Mechanical
- Enterprise Equipment
- R.P. O’Connell, Inc

Air Flow Testing and Balancing Firms

- Precision Testing and Air Balancing
- E.L. Barret
- ATAB
- Thomas Young
- THB Company
- JF Coffey
- Balancing Technologies

Additional information can be found at <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/3731> where we have posted thousands of pages of service, testing, and maintenance data showing our work to date throughout the district.

Again, we would like to thank the principals, teachers, and custodians as they have all been extremely supportive and accommodating of our efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Morse", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Josh Morse
Public Buildings Commissioner