



Business, Finance and Planning

TO: School Committee

FROM: Liam Hurley, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
Stephanie Gilman, Director of Planning, Project Management and Sustainability
Joshua Morse, Newton Public Buildings Commissioner

DATE: September 19, 2022

RE: Capital Project Updates:
Newton Early Childhood Program
Lincoln-Eliot Elementary School
Countryside Elementary School
Horace Mann Elementary School
Franklin Elementary School

Joshua Morse, Newton Public Buildings Commissioner, will present project updates for the Newton Early Childhood Program and Lincoln-Eliot, Countryside, Horace Mann and Franklin Elementary Schools. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss these projects and answer any questions you may have. Below is a brief update on each project with links to additional project information.

I. Newton Early Childhood Program (NECP) at 687 Watertown Street

Construction continues to move forward on the \$13M NECP project at 687 Watertown Street, and the project remains on budget and on schedule, with substantial completion anticipated in November 2022 and final completion in December 2022.

Recent construction activities include continuing mechanical, electrical and plumbing work as well as drywall and painting. The exterior of the building has been cleaned and painted. The exterior storefront and glass at the new main entrance are being installed and the elevator installation is continuing. Tiling in bathrooms is nearly complete. Exterior sidewalks and sloped walks around the site are nearly complete and the site is being prepared for the relocation and installation of the accessible playground equipment.

While much of the classroom furniture will be moved over from 150 Jackson Road, additional classroom furniture and office and conference room furniture have been bid and will be delivered in December. Technology for the building has also been procured and will be installed over the next few months.

NECP project information can be found on the project website at <http://lincolneliot-necp-projects.com/>. Monthly construction updates are also posted to the project website at <http://lincolneliot-necp-projects.com/necp-construction/>.

II. Lincoln-Eliot at 150 Jackson Road

The Lincoln-Eliot project welcomed new principal, Maura Morse, to the project team in July and she has been working hard to get up to speed on the project, while also getting ready for her first school year as the principal of Lincoln-Eliot!

On July 11, 2022, the City Council voted unanimously to approve the Lincoln-Eliot site plan, schematic floor plans and the full project funding. This allows the project to now move forward into the more detailed design development phase of the project. Design development involves another round of programming meetings with school staff to tease out and confirm the detailed needs of each space and space adjacencies. These meetings have been taking place over the past two weeks and will continue over the next few weeks.

Based on feedback and input from staff, the project team will continue working to refine the building floor plans and will incorporate more detailed mechanical, electrical and plumbing information into the drawings. The theater design consultant will also continue to develop the plans for the renovation of the auditorium, based on feedback from both the school staff and many local arts organizations with the goal of creating a space that will support both the school's educational program as well as community performances and programs.

A joint School Building Committee (SBC) and Design Review Committee meeting was held on September 14, 2022. The meeting recording can be found on the project website at <http://lincolneliot-necp-projects.com/>. The next Lincoln-Eliot SBC and DRC meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2022. Project updates will continue to be provided to the School Committee as the project progresses. Past meeting presentations, meeting recordings and additional project information can be found on the project website at <http://lincolneliot-necp-projects.com/>.

This project is anticipated to be bid in the spring of 2023 with construction anticipated to be complete for the start of school in September 2025.

III. Countryside Elementary School Project

With the selection of DiNisco Design by the MSBA Designer Selection Panel on August 16, 2022, the Countryside project now moves into Module 3 of the MSBA process, which is Feasibility Study. DiNisco Design designed both Angier and Cabot Elementary Schools so they have great Newton and MSBA experience to help us shepherd the Countryside project through to successful completion. The feasibility study and the educational program for this project will consider two design enrollments, 340 students and 465 students, as certified by the MSBA.

While the project was making its way through the designer selection process, Public Buildings used this time to start gathering some existing conditions information about the site and the building. Now that the project team is complete, we have already begun a review of the initial space summary for the project and have scheduled an educational visioning session with the staff and Educational Programmer, David Stephen, for October 12, 2022.

Information about the MSBA's Module 3 can be found at [MSBA Module 3 - Feasibility Study](#). An overview of the entire eight module MSBA process can be found at [MSBA Modules Overview](#). A Countryside School Building Committee (SBC) meeting was held on August 23, 2022. The presentation and the recording of the meeting can be found on the [Countryside Elementary School Project webpage](#) on the Newton Public Buildings website. Project information can also be found on the Dore and Whittier [Countryside School Project](#) website. The next Countryside SBC meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

IV. Horace Mann Elementary School Project

The Horace Mann Elementary School project continues to move through the Feasibility Study phase and the project team has been focused on revising and optimizing both the conceptual floor plan options and site plan options based on feedback from staff, community, the Design Review Committee (DRC) and the School Building Committee (SBC).

Joint Horace Mann SBC/DRC meetings were held on July 14, 2022 and August 25, 2022. The SBC/DRC meeting presentations and recordings of the meetings can be found on [Newton Public Buildings Horace Mann Project webpage](#).

Unfortunately, playground installers have been so busy this summer that the installation of the new playground structure has been delayed. The project was put out to bid twice but no responses were received. The equipment was ordered and has come in and it is anticipated that the structure will be installed later this fall. The design of the site for the building project is incorporating the new playground structure into the site plans so that the overall design flows together.

V. Franklin Elementary School Project

HMFH Architects was selected for the Pre-Feasibility Study for the Franklin School Project last spring and they were introduced to the Franklin School Building Committee at their meeting on June 9, 2022. Since then, HMFH has been busy collecting existing condition information and beginning to study conceptual site and building options for the project. These initial building and site concepts for both new construction as well as renovation and addition were presented at the SBC meeting on August 11, 2022. The SBC meeting presentation and the meeting recording can be found on the [Franklin School Project webpage](#) of Newton Public Buildings website. The next Franklin SBC meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2022 at 6:00PM.

An educational visioning session was held with the Franklin School staff and Educational Programmer, David Stephen, on September 14, 2022. This initial input and feedback from the staff will be captured in a report and will help inform the pre-Feasibility study. This project is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2029, but may be able to be accelerated based on the pre-feasibility study findings.