



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

DATE: February 6, 2023

RE: Facilities Update
Newton Early Childhood Program
Lincoln-Eliot Elementary School
Countryside Elementary School
Franklin Elementary School
Horace Mann Elementary School
Underwood and Ward Elementary Schools Facility and Enrollment Study
Cabot MSBA Post Occupancy Survey
Other Updates

This report includes updates on major school building projects and other significant school facility matters. This report also includes brief updates on transportation, sustainability, and school-related Parks, Recreation and Culture projects.

I. Newton Early Childhood Program (NECP)

The NECP successfully moved to their new home at 687 Watertown Street over the December school vacation week. Thank you to Director Kathleen Browning and all of the NECP staff for their purging, packing and cooperation to make this a successful move. Thank you also to Public Buildings, Facilities and to the IT department for all of their work over the break to make sure that all equipment was moved and up and running for the family open house on January 4th and the opening of the school on January 5th. The ribbon cutting took place on January 25th and a community open house was held on Saturday, January 28th.

The project was completed on time and on budget and is now the first net-zero school in the district. The building is all electric for heating and cooling and is signed up for Newton Power Choice 100% Green, which purchases 100% renewable electricity from premium renewable sources in New England.

We are working with Kathleen and the City to monitor traffic and parking and will be adding some signage to clarify traffic flow and drop off areas, and may make additional adjustments if needed.



January 25, 2023 Ribbon Cutting



January 25, 2023 Ribbon Cutting



New Main Entrance on Albemarle Road



Reinstalled and expanded play structure

II. Lincoln-Eliot Elementary School Project at 150 Jackson Road

The Lincoln-Eliot project is nearing the end of the Design Development phase. The project team has been diligently working on refining the design and interior and site details to ensure that the project meets the program and remains within budget. Construction costs and inflation have been rising so the team is focused on refining the design to stay within the project budget. The project continues to evolve with discussion and selection of materials, colors and finishes.

The Design Review Committee (DRC) reviewed the project at their January 11, 2023 meeting, and the project will go before the DRC committee again on February 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM. The School Building Committee will also be invited to join the DRC meeting.

The project is anticipated to begin demolition in the fall of 2023, with construction complete for the start of school in 2025. 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/>.

III. Countryside Elementary School Project

The Countryside project continues to make great progress through the Feasibility Study Phase, Module 3 of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process.

On December 19, 2022, the School Committee approved the Countryside Educational Plan and Space Program for both the 340 and 465 study design enrollments. The Educational plan and Space Program form the basis of design for the project. Once approved, they were incorporated into the Preliminary Design Program (PDP), the first required feasibility study submission to the MSBA. The PDP was shared with the School Building Committee for their review and discussion, and on January 17, 2023, the SBC voted to submit the PDP to the MSBA. In addition to the Educational Plan and space program, the PDP includes materials from staff visioning sessions in the fall, all existing condition information for the building and site, a site selection matrix, preliminary conceptual designs for renovation, renovation and addition, and new construction, and an options matrix to determine a preferred path forward.

Based on the list of criteria, the options matrix concludes that the optimal path forward is to build a new building for 465 students on the existing site. The Countryside School currently has 371 students and is projected to grow to over 400 students in the coming years, thus the PDP proposes focusing on a design enrollment of 465 moving forward. In addition, due to the condition and limitations of the existing building and the fact that it currently sits in the flood zone, the PDP also recommends moving forward with new construction further north on the site.

The MSBA will review the PDP and provide feedback over the next two months. In the meantime, the project team will continue to work on developing conceptual design options for review. Information about the MSBA's Module 3 can be found at [MSBA Module 3 - Feasibility Study](#) and an overview of the entire eight module MSBA process can be found at [MSBA Module Overview](#).

The Countryside project team toured Angier, Cabot and Zervas in early December, 2022. Countryside School Building Committee (SBC) meetings were held on December 6, 2022, December 20, 2022, and January 17, 2023. All project information, presentations and meeting recordings can be found on the [Countryside Elementary School Project](#) webpage. The next Countryside SBC meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2023.

Construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2025, with construction complete in summer 2027.

IV. Franklin Elementary School Project

The Franklin School Project is currently paused while awaiting project funding. Pre-feasibility planning was completed over this past year, and the goal is to begin the feasibility design phase in a few months provided project funding is approved.

As part of the pre-feasibility work, HMFH Architects gathered and documented existing building and site conditions, reviewed enrollment data, developed a preliminary space program and needs assessment. Educational Planner, David Stephens, led a staff visioning session in September to begin to gather staff input and feedback. Preliminary conceptual designs and School Building Committee meeting materials and recordings can be found on the [Franklin Elementary School Project](#) webpage of the Newton Public Buildings website. This project is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2027.

V. Horace Mann Elementary School Project

The Horace Mann School project remains on hold while awaiting project funding. Prior to being put on hold, the project had progressed through much of the feasibility study work and the project team was working toward a preferred site development and building option. Provided project funding is approved, it is anticipated that the feasibility study will be completed this spring, with design complete by the end of 2024. Construction is expected to start in the winter of 2025 and be complete by the fall of 2026. This timeline may need to shift depending on the final design and construction logistics.

Project information and SBC meeting presentations and recordings can be found on the [Horace Mann Elementary School Project](#) webpage of the NPS website. Project information can also be found on Newton Public Buildings's [Horace Mann Project](#) webpage.

New playground equipment was installed at Horace Mann in the fall. The location of the equipment was coordinated with the Horace Mann project to ensure that it would not interfere with the project and will work with the final overall site plan.

VI. Underwood and Ward Elementary Schools Facility and Enrollment Study

As previously reported, the Mayor allocated \$100,000 in ARPA funds to hire a consultant to conduct a facility and enrollment study for the Underwood and Ward Elementary Schools. Both schools are nearing 100 years old and both are experiencing declining enrollments.

The process to select a consultant is a Qualifications Based Selection through the city's Designer Selection Committee (DSC). The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was advertised through the City's Purchasing Department on January 4, 2023 and qualifications submissions were received from two firms on January 26, 2023. The two firms are Raymond Design Associates (RDA), the current architect on the Horace Mann Project, and Perkins Eastman Architects. Both firms will be interviewed by the DSC on February 16, 2023.

A working group will be established to provide feedback and information to the consultant. The Working Group will review and discuss options and will make recommendations to the School Committee for consideration based on their review and community feedback. The intent is to complete the facility and enrollment study by December 2023.

VII. Cabot Elementary MSBA Post-Occupancy Survey

The MSBA has selected the Cabot Elementary School project to participate in a new pilot Post-Occupancy Survey process. Participation is currently voluntary, but will eventually be required once the Post-Occupancy Survey is incorporated into the MSBA process as Module 9. There will be some work to collect data and respond to survey questions. Once complete, the MSBA will schedule an all day site visit to observe building program use and operations. Principal Eric Sprung and Facilities Director David Stickney will be key participants in the process. We anticipate learning a lot about how the building is functioning and meeting the educational program needs, and hope that the process will be informative for the MSBA Countryside project, as well as for all of our school building projects.

VIII. Other Updates

Phase 3 Solar Panel Project Update from Bill Ferguson, Co-Director of Sustainability

Below is an updated table which identifies the solar companies that are working on the next batch of solar installations. The table also includes an approximate time frame for construction. Substantive progress on these stalled projects is now being made and it is anticipated that they will be completed in the summer of 2024, though some roof projects may be able to be completed sooner. Ameresco is a Framingham, MA company that has built all 18 of the City’s operating solar projects. Solect is a Hopkinton, MA company with a good experience in MA.

	Roof Sites	Total First Year Output (kWh)	Location	Type	Solar Company	Construction Timeline
1	Ed Center roof	95,779	Roof	BTM	Ameresco	completed
2	Fire Station #3 and Headquarters	77,395	Roof	BTM	Ameresco	completed
3	Zervas Elementary School	216,094	Roof	BTM	Ameresco	completed
4	Angier Elementary School Gym roof	98,208	Roof	BTM	Ameresco	Summer 2024
5	Cabot School	142,409	Roof	BTM	Ameresco	Summer 2024
6	Horace Mann, 225, Nevada Street	66,161	Roof	BTM	Solect	Summer 2024
7	Williams Elementary School	87,835	Roof	BTM	Solect	Summer 2024
	Total Phase 3 Roof sites kWh	783,881				

Parking Lot Canopy Sites						
8	Education Center parking lot	335,119	Parking lot	FTM	Ameresco	Summer 2024
9	Oak Hill MS parking lot, behind Oak Hill Middle School	197,117	Parking lot	BTM	Solect	Summer 2024
10	Memorial Spaulding Elementary School parking lot	204,698	Parking lot	FTM	Ameresco	Summer 2024
11	Pleasant Street lot, Newton Centre	120,656	Parking lot	FTM	Ameresco	Summer 2024
12	Mason Rice Elementary School Parking lot	200,824	Parking lot	BTM	Solect	Summer 2024
13	North High School, Lowell Ave	582,786	Parking lot	FTM	Ameresco	completed
14	North High School, Walnut Street	354,392	Parking lot	BTM	Ameresco	completed
15	Brown Middle School Lot (behind school)	321,338	Parking lot	FTM	Ameresco	Summer 2024
16	Wheeler Road lot	313,500	Parking lot	FTM	Ameresco	Summer 2024
17	Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street	378,230	Parking lot	BTM	Ameresco	completed
Total Phase 3 Canopy sites kWh		3,008,660				
	Phases	Annual kWh	Municipal Use			
	Phase 3 Total kWh-completed, estimated FY 2022 kWh	1,704,676	9%			
	Phase 3 Total kWh-proposed	2,087,865	10%			
	Phase 2 Total kWh-actual FY 2021 kWh	3,933,819	20%			
	Phase 1 Total kWh-actual FY 2021 kWh	736,813	4%			
	All Phases kWh	8,463,173	42.2%			
Municipal Total Use kWh FY 2021		20,044,000				

Helpsy Textile Collection Bins

Helpsy textile collection bins were placed at 14 school buildings over the summer and have been well used over the past six months. Helpsy collects unwanted shoes and textiles for reuse and recycling, which keeps these items out of the waste stream, helps the City meet environmental and waste reduction goals,

and also generates a small amount of revenue for Newton Public Schools. In addition, the textile bins help Newton residents comply with the state ban on textiles in our waste that went into effect in November 2022.

We continue to tweak some of the bin locations due to operational, visibility, or snow removal issues, and are planning to add bins at a few additional school locations in the coming months. For July through December of 2022, the bins diverted a total of 118,909 pounds of clothing and shoes from the waste stream and generated a total of \$13,079.99 in revenue for the schools.

Additional information about Helpsy can be found at <https://www.helpsy.co/>, and additional information about textile recovery can be found at [MassDEP Textile Recovery Website](#).

Transportation Updates

- A MassDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) \$627,000 Infrastructure Grant was just awarded to Newton for improvements to the Parker Road and Route 9 intersection. This grant will help pay for safety improvements at this intersection that will support better walking and biking routes for students at Brown and Oak Hill Middle Schools and NSHS. This grant application was a collaborative effort led by Nicole Freedman. The project will be managed by DPW.
- The MassDOT Safe Routes to School Infrastructure grant that was awarded for improvements to the Albemarle, North, Crafts Streets intersection is moving into design development and is anticipated to be constructed in 2025.
- The Neighborways Albemarle bike lane project is moving forward and is expected to be installed in the summer of 2023.
- DPW will install 28 new Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at a number of locations near schools. Locations have been reviewed and prioritized with the School Transportation Steering Group and are anticipated to be installed by the start of school in fall 2023. An RRFB can increase driver awareness of pedestrians at uncontrolled marked crosswalks. The RRFB installations are being funded through a variety of sources including ARPA, MassDOT, Traffic Calming, and private developer mitigation funds.

Dudley Road Update

The City received 10 responses to the Dudley Road Estate Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) on December 1, 2022, and the selection committee reviewed the proposals and conducted interviews with the shortlisted firms during December 2022. The property is three parcels that total approximately 15 acres and abuts Newton South High School. The City is investigating whether there might be partnership opportunities for the property that could include market rate and affordable housing, open space and the possibility of school or facility expansion space.

Parks, Recreation & Culture (PRC) Updates

- Synthetic Turf Replacements at NNHS and NSHS - The turf replacement project for the two NSHS fields has received support in both the Programs and Services and Finance Committees. PRC is working with consultants at CDM Smith to finalize the installation bid and are looking to

purchase products through a state contract. The old carpets will be sent to a facility that recycles the materials to make shock pads for these field systems. PRC will be working closely with Director of Athletics, Pat Rivero de Gonzalez, as doing both fields simultaneously will be a significant undertaking and the focus will be to minimize disruption to field availability during the spring and fall sport seasons. As the fields will be inaccessible, PRC will also work with NSHS regarding options for this year's graduation plans.

The plan is to replace the NNHS turf field in the summer of 2024.

- Field Lighting Projects at NNHS and NSHS - Installation of light poles was completed at NSHS and Brandeis Road fields in late September.

Installation of the NNHS field lights was delayed due to some required permitting for remediation work on the site. The bid was posted on January 19, 2023, and bids are due on February 2, 2023. The lights are anticipated to be installed by the start of school in the fall of 2023.

Information on both light projects is available at: www.newtonma.gov/fieldprojects