



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: March 4, 2024

RE: School Facilities and Enrollment Planning Study
Perkins Eastman Study Update - School Space Utilization and Building Conditions

On March 4, 2024, Perkins Eastman will present an update on the School Facilities and Enrollment Planning Study. Their presentation will include space utilization and building condition data for the remaining six elementary schools, as well as utilization and condition data for the Underwood and Ward Schools.

Background and Work to Date

Perkins Eastman, a planning and design consultant, was hired in the spring of 2023 to conduct a School Facilities and Enrollment Planning Study to help guide short- and long-term facility planning for NPS. The study initially focused on the Underwood and Ward Elementary Schools, the two oldest schools in the district. The study then turned to the six remaining elementary schools to gather additional facilities and program information that is needed to inform district-wide long range facilities and enrollment planning discussions.

The six schools included in this phase of the study are Burr, Bowen, Mason Rice, Memorial Spaulding, Peirce, and Williams. These six schools have not been renovated or replaced since 2015, and are not currently in design or construction to be renovated or replaced. Space utilization and building condition data for both Ward and Underwood was previously collected and documented as part of the initial work for the study.

In November, 2023, Perkins Eastman met with each of the six school principals to walk through their buildings and to gather and document floor plan and space use information. This information was then reviewed and analyzed to understand current space utilization, the number of seats currently available in each building, and how current space use compares to Newton's educational space program guidelines, which are based on the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) space standards.

During the December 2023 school break, Perkins Eastman returned to the six schools to collect site and building condition information. Follow up meetings were then held with the Public Buildings Department

and NPS Facilities to review and verify the condition information and to collect cost estimate information.

The space utilization data and analysis and preliminary building and site condition information will be presented. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Next Steps and Schedule

The next steps in the study are to complete and finalize the building condition data for the six schools, and to fully integrate the data for the Ward and Underwood Schools so that the space use and condition analysis and evaluation of all eight schools can be completed. The anticipated timeline to complete this work is noted below.

Study Timeline:

Oct-Nov 2023 - Gather, document and analyze space utilization for 6 schools
Dec 2023 - Review and confirm space utilization, Begin gathering building conditions
Jan-Feb 2024 - Complete documentation of building conditions
Feb-Mar 2024 - Space Use and Condition Analysis and Evaluation
Mar-Apr 2024 - Draft Report
May 2024 - Final Report

Long Range Planning

As previously outlined, the work of this study is one of the key components needed to inform discussions related to long range facilities and enrollment planning, and the update of the long range facilities plan. For reference and context, the key components include:

1. NPS Enrollment Data and Projections
2. Update of the McKibben Demographer's Report
- 3. School Space Utilization Data**
4. Neighborhood Schools and Walkability/Green Travel Option Discussion
5. Elementary School Size Discussion and Guidance
6. School Choice Discussion and Vote
7. Student Assignment Update for New Building Projects
8. Special Education Distribution of Programs and Space Needs

Another update on the Facility and Enrollment Planning Study will be provided to the School Committee as the analysis and evaluation work is completed. We look forward to answering any questions you may have.