

**TO: Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer
George King, Chair of the City Council
Adam Steiner, Chair of the City Council's Finance Subcommittee**

FROM: Adam Freudberg, Chair of the School Committee

**CC: Mary Ellen Kelley, Thatcher Kezer
Dr. Robert Tremblay, Lincoln Lynch, Matthew Torti**

DATE: Wednesday April 8, 2020

RE: Updated - Framingham Public Schools FY21 Capital Plan

Overview

On behalf of the Framingham School Committee I am pleased to submit the updated FY21 Capital Plan for the Framingham Public Schools (FPS).

After some adjustments and back and forth discussions between the CFO, FPS, and School Committee, the final recommendations for your consideration are similar to the original ones requested in October of 2019 except for two projects. Due to budget constraints expressed to us in the Mayor's November Capital Plan submission, the McCarthy Elementary School HVAC and one security item described in additional detail later on in this memo were removed or reduced in scope to fit into the CFO's request to us of \$3,390,200. If you have any questions about the process which led to this revision, feel free to ask anytime. It will all be recapped during the FPS appearance before the Finance Subcommittee scheduled for April 14th.

This revised plan was passed by a 9-0 vote of the School Committee on February 26, 2020 after an initial recommendation by the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee by a 4-0 vote on February 24, 2020. The initial version of this plan was previously passed October 2, 2019 by the full School Committee as well as the Facilities Subcommittee 4-0 on September 25, 2019.

The School Committee's request seeks to fund what is sorely needed so students, staff, and our community can benefit. Security improvements, environmentally friendly upgrades, exterior upgrades, and fixing a health and educational delivery gap at Barbieri Elementary School by adding HVAC repairs were prioritized by the committee. With this plan, we have teamed up with the Superintendent, Buildings and Grounds, Safety and Security, and the DPW to create an opportunity to make limited strategic investments to support our current students and educators, as well as the generations to come.

The School Committee proposes this request of \$3,390,200 with a Security Addendum of \$214,800 for a total of \$3,605,000, after reviewing a total Buildings and Grounds initial request of \$7,551,613. These projects and the district's capital planning process save money in the long-term by prioritizing preventative maintenance and health safety projects, utilizing existing infrastructure, and fully using warranties and cost effective contract vehicles in partnership with municipal departments.

If approved, these capital projects will support the 9,000+ students, 1,800+ employees, and members of the community who utilize schools on evenings and weekends at sites across the City of Framingham.

We are grateful to Mayor Spicer for her time and attention to the capital plan as she also serves as a member of the School Committee. We are enthusiastic and willing partners ready to appear before the Finance Subcommittee on April 14 and beyond as we seek final authorization in a timely manner so work can begin, and students and school communities across the entire city can benefit.

If fiscal realities or City Council priorities require adjustments, we respectfully request that you come back to the School Committee to allow us an opportunity to re-prioritize our submitted list.

Security Addendum

The School Committee and FPS understand the \$3,390,200 number set by the administration and the competing priorities throughout our city. With that said, security in schools is a top priority. Due to that, we were not comfortable not pursuing our full plan for security improvements throughout the district. On February 26th the School Committee also took a vote on the following motion:

Motion: To concur with the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee's recommendation to request a supplemental capital appropriation of \$214,800 to fund the remaining request for security the School Committee and FPS Director of Safety and Security originally requested in October of 2019. (Approved 9-0)

If this security funding is secured, FPS will be able to:

- Complete the security assessments at our middle schools
- Build necessary perimeter barricades at multiple playgrounds where cars can currently access school property, creating high risks for students and staff we aim to cease
- Add security cameras throughout the district where the assessment showed they are needed, instead of reducing the planned installation this FY

FY21 Capital Budget Project Summary

The following projects were carefully selected as part of the FPS multi-year capital planning process. Funded projects proposed and supported by FPS and School Committee in order of priority are:

- ***Exterior Envelope Improvements to roofs, walls, windows, and doorways at multiple schools - \$2,000,000***
 - The district's five year capital plan includes estimates for the exterior envelopes of all buildings. This year's plan funds the top projects identified as priorities where urgent work is needed to repair or replace exterior walls, windows and sealant systems and associated components. FY21 projects will fix these challenges at Hemenway and Wilson Elementary Schools, Cameron and Walsh Middle Schools, BLOCKS Preschool at Juniper Hill, and the Transportation Building.
- ***Paving and Stormwater Drainage Repairs at Brophy Elementary School - \$955,000***
 - This project is the top priority on the district's school parking and drainage capital needs list, and has been deferred for eight years in a row. Upgrades and repairs at Brophy are necessary to the existing driveway, parking lots, and stormwater systems, and to ensure compliance with federal environmental and stormwater runoff requirements. As part of this project, a separate effort to build a solar canopy over the new parking area has started.
- ***HVAC Replacement at Barbieri Elementary School - \$200,000***
 - The existing HVAC system at Barbieri Elementary School is in need of replacement.
- ***Security Enhancements at multiple schools including security cameras and electronic door access systems - \$235,200***
 - This request will further support and enhance the already robust security systems and measures at all schools. This includes enhancement function modules, badging system upgrades, alarm upgrades, security cameras, security assessments, and access controls.

Total: \$3,390,200

Security Addendum of \$214,800 + Request of \$3,390,200 = \$3,605,000

The Future

Like most districts, FPS does have its share of infrastructure challenges as we manage decades-old buildings. However, under the leadership of our Building and Grounds Department the district does a terrific job making our schools safe and attractive places to learn and work.

We plan to continue to balance fiscal realities with annual funding proposals like this FY21 one which seeks to fund what is sorely needed so students, staff, and our community can benefit.

The district is continuing to refine the previously published long-term capital plan which reflects the multiple other infrastructure needs required over the coming years. As of today, this plan summarizes the anticipated roof repairs/replacements, paving/environmental stormwater compliance, electrical, plumbing, security, exterior envelope improvements to walls, windows, doorways, and more. This long-term plan reflects an annual actual need of approximately \$12 million per year.

To proactively plan for the decades ahead, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Tremblay, in a plan endorsed 9-0 by the Framingham School Committee, created a series of facilities related goals. This includes Framingham High School's utilization in preparation for enrollment growth, preschool expansion, and long-term facilities planning across the district. The findings and recommendations from these goals will be finalized and publicly released as part of the School Committee's April 15 meeting. These results and subsequent actions will further influence our long-term capital planning process.

Attachments:

1. [FY21 Capital Project Narratives and Documentation](#)
2. [Superintendent's 2019-2020 Goals: Enrollment & Facilities Planning](#)