

Hanover Public Schools

Matthew A. Ferron
Superintendent of Schools



Thomas R. Raab, Ed.D.
Business Manager

Deborah St. Ives
Assistant Superintendent

Joan Woodward
Student Services Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Hanover School Committee
From: Thomas Raab, Business Manager
Cc: Matthew Ferron, Superintendent of Schools
Date: May 2, 2018
Re: School Related Town Meeting Articles

I write to bring to your attention two Town Meeting Articles relevant to the School Department. Reprinting the articles from the Town Meeting Warrant, I've also included commentary from the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee supports both articles. We have secured quotes from both projects equal to the amounts requested and have reviewed them with appropriate personnel. Facilities has reviewed the quotes for the playground and Bill Hartigan and the Information Technology Subcommittee has reviewed the quotes for the video cameras. Upon approval we will follow the appropriate procurement process for each.

Cedar Playground

Currently, there are three playgrounds at Cedar. The Grade 1-4 Front Playground includes swings and a small play structure. It is in decent shape though the equipment needs some retrofitting to be more appropriate for grades PreK, K, and 1. The second playground is the Nicole Henry Playground dedicated 21 years ago in memory of Nicole Henry. This playground is quickly reaching the end of its lifecycle and the equipment is too big for PreK – Grade 1. It is not able to be retrofitted and should be replaced. The new playground would be re dedicated in Nicole Henry's memory. The PreK-K Playground behind the building is also quickly reaching the end of its lifecycle and is not able to be retrofitted. The Facilities Department has done an admirable job tweaking it and making it work better with new mulch and paint but the erosion is a never-ending battle. All three playgrounds are not fully ADA compliant and do not have paved pathways, wheelchair accessibility, or easy accessibility for caretakers; all necessary components of a modern playground.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 2. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – CEDAR SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$175,000, or another sum, to purchase, equip, and install playground equipment at the Cedar Elementary School, said purchasing, equipping, and installing to be done at the direction of the Town Manager, or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

We move that the Town vote to appropriate \$175,000 to be used as set forth in this Article, as identified in the chart below:

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SOURCE			USE	
Description	Amount		Description	Amount
Sale of Bond Premium Receipts Reserved	116,000.00		Cedar Elementary School Playground	175,000.00
Certified Free Cash	59,000.00			
	175,000.00			175,000.00

***Commentary:** In connection with the School Committee's decision to reconfigure the Cedar School as a "town-wide" school for all Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grade 1 students beginning in September 2019, the need for updated playground facilities at the Cedar School has been accelerated. The existing playground equipment at the Cedar School is reaching the end of its expected useful life and a significant portion of the existing equipment was designed for 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students. After meeting with the Cedar School principal and the School Business Manager, the Advisory Committee is satisfied that appropriating \$175,000 through this Special Town Meeting article is advisable and necessary. This investment in new play equipment will better serve the younger school population and will offer greater accessibility and play options for students with disabilities and physical challenges. The appropriation is proposed to be sourced using funds received from the premium arising from the sale of Bond Anticipation Notes with the remaining amount to be funded by Certified Free Cash.*

We note that future costs associated with maintenance and improvement of the Cedar School are a concern. Last year a major re-paving project at Cedar School was proposed but was not approved by Town Meeting and the year before a major tile flooring replacement project at Cedar School was proposed and not approved. Those projects are now reflected in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan as Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2022 priorities, respectively. In addition, it appears that some exterior painting and maintenance at the Cedar School has been deferred or otherwise needs immediate attention. As such, we recommend that the Town Manager conduct a Cedar School specific needs assessment be completed with input from the Facilities and School Departments such that priorities be appropriately established for future capital needs.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND CEDAR SCHOOL CAMERAS AND SECURITY SYSTEM

Hanover High School has and the new Center Elementary School will have fully functioning cameras inside and outside of the school as part of a 21st Century security system. Thus it is appropriate for safety and equity that the Middle School and Cedar School be outfitted in a similar fashion. We've received competitive quotes that allow the projects to be completed for \$150,000 and our goal is to complete installation by the Fall. Bill Hartigan, our Technology Director, is working with vendors to find the most comprehensive and cost effective system that will mesh with already existing systems.

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 30. APPROPRIATE FUNDS – MIDDLE AND CEDAR SCHOOLS CAMERA SECURITY SYSTEM

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the sum of \$150,000, or another sum, to purchase and equip a camera security system for the Middle and Cedar Schools, said purchase and equipping to be done at the direction of the Town Manager, or take any other action relative thereto.

Facilities Engineering Manager
School Committee
Town Manager

We move that the Town vote to appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$150,000 to be used as set forth in this Article. We further move that the Information Technology Study Committee established by Article 45 of the spring 2017 Annual Town Meeting continue its existence, and report back to the next Annual Town Meeting.

***Commentary:** Per the request of the Advisory Committee, the Information Technology Study Committee reviewed the proposal for cameras at the Middle and Cedar Schools. That committee recommended the camera security system that is the topic of this Article. Based on the advice of the Information Technology Study Committee and the recommendation of the School Department and Facilities Engineering Manager, we support this Article.*