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## Newton ARPA Investment Elementary School Buildings - \$1,900,000

Countryside - \$1,250,000  
Lincoln-Eliot - \$350,000  
Franklin - \$100,000  
Horace Mann - \$100,000  
Ward and Underwood - \$100,000

We listened carefully to the community, our School Committee members and our City Councilors about how best to invest the American Rescue Plan Act, a.k.a. ARPA, funds. A common goal was investing in our schools, as they quite literally hold our future, and our children were so heavily impacted by the pandemic.

Update (6/2/2021):

**Countryside** (\$1.25 million) - In recent years, the City and the Newton Public Schools had identified Countryside Elementary School as one of the top priorities for school improvement projects for Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funding. I'm thrilled that earlier this year the MSBA invited Countryside into their formal funding process.

I'm now designating \$1.25M in ARPA funding to move ahead with a feasibility study of the Countryside Elementary School, pending approval of the City Council to move into the feasibility phase of this project. This study will determine the best future for Countryside, whether a renovation/addition or a full replacement is appropriate.

Update (10/14/2021):

We are now positioned to use ARPA funds to help move additional important school projects forward:

**Lincoln-Eliot** (\$350,000) – This funding allows us to continue the schematic design phase for a wonderful facility, new playgrounds, fields, and so much more at 150 Jackson Road. We held a community meeting tonight and our next one will be at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 9. Preregister to attend and speak [here](#).

**Franklin** (\$100,000) – This funding allows us to begin the feasibility phase for a renovation/addition or new building as well as new playgrounds and fields for the Franklin School

and neighborhood. Our first community meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 2. Preregister to attend and speak [here](#).

**Horace Mann** (\$100,000) – Following up on our recent announcement of \$250,000 for a new playground, these funds will allow us to further the design efforts that began before Covid for much needed space while complimenting one of our proud historical facilities. Our first community meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 25. Preregister to attend and speak [here](#).

**Ward and Underwood** – Newton Public Schools began to engage with the Ward and Underwood Parent Task Force just before the Covid-19 pandemic began. This group is tackling the facility challenges that exist at both schools, and how best to address them. I am reserving ARPA funds to make sure that Newton Public Schools and the Parent Task Force have the resources they will need to move this important initiative along once the feasibility phase gets started.

Update (9/15/2022):

**Ward and Underwood** (\$100,000) - School Committee members and Newton Public Schools staff began to work with the Ward and Underwood Task Force just before the Covid-19 pandemic began. The Ward and Underwood communities have been patiently waiting for this process to restart after the pandemic forced us to put the work on hold. We are now poised to tackle the facility and enrollment challenges that exist at both schools, and to determine how best to address them.

Last fall, I announced that I was reserving ARPA funds to make sure that Newton Public Schools and the Ward and Underwood Task Force have resources to move this important initiative forward. It is now time to make that funding available.

I am allocating \$100,000 in ARPA funding to support the Newton Public Schools and the Ward and Underwood school communities. These funds will help NPS provide professional services to evaluate the facilities, analyze enrollments and educational models, and clarify the challenges and opportunities to help with the decision making.