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ATTACHMENT 4: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

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Newton Public Schools Mathematics Coordinator Mary Eich p. 33

Newton Schools Foundation Executive Director Clare McCully p. 34

Newton Environmental Design & Construction Owner Michael McSally p. 35-36

Landscape Architect David Valbracht p. 37

Cabot Park Village Director Michael Reed p. 38

Neighborhood Resident Daphne Potter p. 39

Students p. 40-42

Parent Merry Gerard p. 43

Teachers p. 44-47



Newton Public Schools 100 Walnut Street Newton, MA 02460

Telephone (617) 559-6100

Dr. Jeffrey M. Young Superintendent of Schools

Fax (617) 559-6101

November 3, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson, Members of the Community Preservation Committee, and City of Newton Representatives:

I enthusiastically support the enclosed proposal for funding for the Outdoor Classroom project at Cabot Elementary School. The Cabot Elementary School community should be commended for its unique child- and community-oriented approach to addressing the distressed space adjacent to the school. By using "Learning by Design" concepts, the project enriches the children's educational experience from design through implementation and will benefit many years of future Cabot students. By involving the community through the Neighborhood Advisory Committee, the school is strengthening their school-community partnership while beautifying the residents' neighborhood.

I hope you will recognize Cabot Elementary School's outstanding efforts by funding this proposal, thereby becoming a significant partner in transforming a blighted space to one of learning and recreation for all ages.

Sincerely,

Superintendent of Schools

JMY/mb

NEWTON

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA 02460-1398 Office of Curriculum and Instruction Mathematics Curriculum Center

Phone: (617-559-9090) Fax: (617-559-6148)

October 30, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson, Members of the Community Preservation Committee, and City of Newton Representatives:

I am writing in support of Cabot Elementary School's Proposal to the City of Newton for Community Preservation Act funding. I understand that the school is seeking a grant of \$24,270 toward the total project costs of \$66,700.

I have been involved in the project in my capacity as K-8 Mathematics Coordinator in the Newton Public Schools. Cabot School Principal Marilynne Quarcoo and I have worked together help teachers design and implement age-appropriate lessons incorporating mathematics curriculum goals with the ongoing design process. It has been particularly exciting to see the children using the opportunities the project has presented to develop measurement concepts in a "real-life" situation.

In addition to the obvious benefits to the Cabot neighborhood, the Outdoor Classroom project will provide an ongoing opportunity for students and teachers to use their developing mathematics skills in practical situations, where the problems and solutions are apparent both inside and outside the classroom. Research is clear that practical use of mathematics in students' everyday lives serves to enhance understanding by calling on learning strengths not easily tapped in the regular classroom experience.

Thank you for your consideration of funding for this important project. Ms. Quarcoo and the Cabot School staff and parents have made significant progress towards realizing their vision for the Outdoor Classroom with support from the Newton Schools Foundation and school-based resources. Community Preservation Act funding will provide multi-faceted benefits to the Cabot School and surrounding neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Mary Eich

Mathematics Coordinator K-8

Newton Public Schools Wealth Elementary Sch

of Elementary School Putdopy Classican SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, Massachusetts 02460 (617) 559-6120 (617) 559-6121 (FAX)

A Private Commitment to Innovation in Public Education

31 October 2003

Ms. Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson,

I have been asked to write to you, and to the members of the Community Preservation Committee and City of Newton Representatives, regarding the Cabot Elementary School's Proposal for Community Preservation Act funding.

I understand that Cabot School is seeking a grant of \$24,270 toward the total project costs of \$66,700.

The Newton Schools Foundation awarded Cabot School a grant of \$6,800 in May of 2003 to support the curriculum unit/work in anticipation of the larger installation work of an outdoor classroom.

This grant from the NSF was intended to actively engage the student body with the design phase through the curriculum, thereby making this a true enhancement of what is taught at Cabot. I attended an assembly yesterday with the beginnings of this work and was extremely impressed with what the students and teachers have produced so far. What struck me most was how committed and engaged the Cabot School community was, and the end results have such great potential. The curricular work was solid, and will have a lasting benefit.

As we have seen with other outdoor classrooms we have funded throughout the City, these areas will benefit not only the schools, but the surrounding neighborhoods as well. They provide oases for passive recreation, serve to enlighten the community on the use of outdoor space for curriculum development, and bring a positive message to all that there is pride and care taken around a school building.

Executive Board

Kirsten Lundberg Co-President

Charles Wu
Co-President

Victor Milione Vice President

Patsy Rowe Vice President

Robert Pajak *Treasurer*

Dennie Rothschild Secretary Jeffrey Young

Superintendent (Ex-officio)

Clare McCully Executive Director

Georgia Antonopoulos Development Assistant

Directors

Richard C. Allen **Hugh Auchincloss** Mandy Bass Margie Birnbaum Robert Bloom Lynda Bussgang Thomas Coleman Martha Cowden Bruce Evans Deborah Green Susan Heyman Anthony Hubbard Todd Krasnow James Mahoney Alison McCarty Michael McKay Susan Pravda Lisa Robinson David Rochon Janet Rosen Alan Schlesinger Debora Spar Laurie Swett Karen Temkin Andrew Urban Kevin Wilkins Margo Winslow

*Honorary Former Presidents

Richard Hamermesh Founding President

Claire Bean
Susan Benjamin
Buzz Birnbaum
Hon. Jonathan Brant
Ann Harris
Mary Ellen McAndrews
Andrew Stern
Walter Tennant
Andrew Urban

Margo Winston

The Newton Schools Foundation heartily endorses the work of this Cabot Outdoor Classroom. We believe it will have a lasting impact on the entire community, and a wonderful example for the City of Newton.

If you would like to speak with me further on the ongoing grant with the Newton Schools Foundation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We appreciate the work of the CPC, having partnered with you already at Memorial-Spaulding's outdoor classroom.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this proposal from Cabot School.

Clare McCully Executive Director

NEWTON ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

49 Blake Street Newton, MA 02460 617-332-3654

November 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Cabot School Outdoor Classroom

I am a parent of a Cabot School student and serve as Co- Chairperson of the Cabot School Outdoor Classroom Project. I have served on this committee since it s inception three years ago. Formerly, I was a Co-Chairperson of the Cabot School Playground Committee and acted as the Project/ Construction Manager on that project. Currently, I am PTO Co-President at Bigelow Middle School. In my professional life, I serve as an advisor to The Albemarle Playground and Community Classroom project. I am a licensed Construction Supervisor and the owner of The Newton Environmental Design and Construction Company.

In my capacity as a volunteer Project/Construction Manager to the Cabot Playground project, I oversaw the completion of the project in Spring 2000. The project had a final cost of \$65,000 and included more active recreational features for the students at the school. The current proposal to develop other open spaces adjacent to the school will create a necessary balance for the community by providing a passive recreational area for a larger population.

We took an existing site and did extensive excavation and re-grading, coordinated all of the necessary sub-contractors, negotiated reduced costs and in-kind donations of labor, equipment, and services from these contractors. All of our efforts were done in cooperation with the appropriate city departments specifically the School and the Parks and Recreation Departments. The Playground project was heralded by all City agencies involved as one of the most efficiently run, trouble and issue free community building projects of its type.

We completed the project on time, under budget, with the endorsement and participation of the surrounding community and with no injuries. Our committee held evening meetings with neighborhood residents and incorporated their concerns into our final design plans. The City gave us great latitude in performing major excavation and construction tasks due to the expertise of the team involved in the project. This entire team will be participating in The Outdoor Classroom Project.

I have agreed to function as the Project/Construction Manager of The Outdoor Classroom. I will be donating my time and services, and the services of some of my subcontractors to this project. The total estimated in-kind services I anticipate donating will be \$28,000.00.

Sincerely,

Michael McSally
Michael McSally

Owner

Newton Environmental Design and Construction

F. 62

37

David Valbracht - Landscape Architect 10 Clarendon Street Newton, MA 02460 617-527-7690

October 30, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson, Members of the Community Preservation Committee, and City of Newton Representatives:

I am writing in support of Cabot Elementary School's Proposal to the City of Newton for Community Preservation Act funding.

I joined the Cabot School community when I married Susan Korgen, mother of Cyrus, now a 5th grader. For more than a year I have walked Cyrus to and from school, which is only two blocks from our home. We often select the route that passes by the site of the school's proposed Outdoor Classroom. As a parent, neighborhood resident, and landscape architect, I have recognized the potential for this site to complement the programs at Cabot School.

I have agreed to participate in the development of the Outdoor Classroom because I believe that it is a worthy project. I am impressed with the enthusiasm of the school faculty and other parents. The project is an outstanding opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the school and our neighborhood and will result in a physical enhancement of both. I look forward to the time when I can visit the completed Outdoor Classroom.

I hope you will support us in developing this new space for our school and neighborhood.

Sincerely,

David Valbracht

Jaco Calbract





A Benchmark Independent Living Community

November 3, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson, Members of the Community Preservation Committee, and City of Newton Representatives:

I am writing in support of Cabot Elementary School's Proposal to the City of Newton for Community Preservation Act funding. I understand that the school is seeking a grant of \$24,270 toward the total project costs of \$66,700. I am aware of the project through my role as Director of Cabot Park Village. I am familiar with the site of the proposed project, and I wholeheartedly support Cabot's unique approach to improving the space.

The Outdoor Classroom project will not only benefit the students of the school, but also the surrounding neighborhoods. For one, the project will become a site for passive reaction. Second, the project designs include a clearly delineated pathway that will support our residents' access to the larger Cabot Park, which the school's position and space's disarray currently discourage. Moreover, the design process includes the formation of a Community advisory Committee, which will foster positive working relationships between the school and area neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration of funding for this important project. With your support, I am confident that the new space will be a learning and recreation space for students and the community by the fall of 2004!

Sincerely,

Michael Reed

Director Cabot Park Village

Muchan D. Red

MR:d

October 30, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson, Members of the Community Preservation Committee, and City of Newton Representatives:

I am writing in support of Cabot Elementary School's Proposal to the City of Newton for Community Preservation Act funding. I understand the school is seeking a grant of \$24,270 toward the total project costs of \$66,700.

I am aware of the project through my status as a property owner (my house at 23 Parkview Avenue abuts both the Cabot school property and Outdoor Classroom site). I am also a Cabot School parent.

As an immediate neighbor to the school and Outdoor Classroom site, I am extremely familiar with the site of the proposed project. It's essentially my backyard.

I enthusiastically support Cabot School's wish to improve the space and their unique approach in doing so. I support it as a parent of school-aged children; because of the way the Cabot school children will be involved in improving "their" space. Cabot students will be part of the creation process, teaching them they can have impact over their environment, and giving them an avenue to apply lessons from their daily curriculum.

I also support it as a neighbor, because Outdoor Classroom project will not only benefit the students of the school, but also the surrounding neighborhood. The now-unsightly space will become a recreational site. Additionally, the improved looks will upgrade the streetscape on Bridges St., which right now is somewhat rundown.

Finally, I appreciate the creation of a Community Advisory Committee for the Classroom, which I feel is a wise step in maintaining positive working relationships between the school and the other neighbors in the area.

I appreciate your consideration of funding for the Cabot School Outdoor Classroom as a Newtonville property owner and a school parent. I am hoping for your support of this important project, and look forward to the improvement of this space by Fall, 2004.

Sincerely Yours,

Saphue Potto V

Daphne Potter 23 Parkview Ave,

Newton, MA 02460

CABOT SCHOOL 229 Cabot Street Newtonville, MA 02460

Marilynne Smith Quarcoo Principal (617)559-9400 Fax 552-5584

October 31, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson, Members of the Community Preservation Committee, and City of Newton Representatives:

In the past, I know the outdoor garden has been used in many different ways. Most of them revolving around the idea of planting and utilizing the space as a growing area. But with the loss of some teachers and changing times, the outdoor garden has become a sort of overgrown patch of land occasionally used for measuring by the fifth grade math classes. It is also used by the first grade in a unit called Back Yard Explorations where kids look at insects and plants.

I think Cabot School's future goal for the outdoor garden is for it to be an educational space that can be utilized during the school day by all grade levels. Yet as we are designing this we have to take into consideration the neighbors and safety. We must be very careful while designing because the space is surrounded by neighbors. They would not care for an obtrusive setting by their houses.

The City is also a concern. This is a garden open to all so it has to be appropriate for all ages and types of people. For an example, it would have to be handicapped accessible.

Sincerely,

Myly Mamsher-Hoch

(student)

CABOT SCHOOL 229 Cabot Street Newtonville, MA 02460

Marilynne Smith Quarcoo Principal (617)559-9400 Fax 552-5584

October 31, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson, Members of the Community Preservation Committee, and City of Newton Representatives:

In the "garden", there are weeds that are a foot or more tall. It is dangerous. It is awfully hard to walk through thick weeds and you can trip if you walk straight through it. Piercing thorns and poisonous berries are around the weedy section of the "garden". I think it needs a make over. The benches and tables should be removed because they are molding and someone fell through the table. The chairs should definitely be taken out.

The "garden" should be enjoyable, relaxing, and comfortable for everyone, but also a learning place. There could be a bench swing for people who want to read, do school work, or relax. Also, there could be lots of durable seating and tables so when a class or a person comes in there is a place for people to work or relax.

Maybe there should be flowers and plants so classes and people could observe them. It would also make the neighborhood more colorful.

Sincerely,

Alse Lee

Chloe Lee

(student)

CABOT SCHOOL 229 Cabot Street Newtonville, Massachusetts 02460

Marilynne Smith Quarcoo Principal

(617)559-9400 FAX 552-5584

October 31, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson, Members of the Community Preservation Committee, and City of Newton Representatives:

What is the Cabot School trying to accomplish in the back yard space? Right now it doesn't look like a garden, it looks like a forest. It has bushes and shrubs in it and dead flowers everywhere. It also has some broken tables and benches. You can't even imagine what it looks like! What we are trying to make is a nice peaceful place so that we can study outdoors and enjoy what really can happen if you put a little effort into something. People can also use the garden for studying nature. Nature is a really big part of somebody's education. It affects just about everything.

The neighbors can use the garden by having a nice place to sit down and be by themselves. Neighbors can also use the garden to take a rest from jogging or whatever they were doing. I think we shouldn't just put anything there because the neighbors have feelings about the space around them.

My parents are landscapers so I have some experience with being outdoors. If you respect nature it will serve you well.

Sincerely,

Melissa Jewett

(student)

Merry Gerard 150 Newtonville Ave. Newton, MA 02458 617-969-1129

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of creating an outdoor classroom at Cabot School. I believe that this would be a significant contribution not only to the Cabot students and teachers, but to the surrounding community as well.

My previous experience as one of the co-chairs on the Cabot playground project, has allowed me to see how building an outdoor classroom would be a wonderful addition to Cabot and it's neighbors and would meet some of the same needs that the playground offered. Currently the school curriculum is very demanding, offering the students a very limited amount of time to be outside. Creating and preserving a beautiful yet functional open space around the school helps the students, teachers and the community have greater access to the beauty of nature and its incredible diversity as well as time to get a breath of fresh air.

The Cabot playground was built in June of 2002. I loved participating in that project from start to finish and still feel enormous satisfaction whenever I see the kids using it.

Primarily, we rebuilt the Cabot playground because too many kids had gotten injuries from splinters and the hard-packed sand surface. In addition, the new playground was much more attractive to the school and the community and was designed to better serve the needs of the kids and the physical education curriculum.

One of the pluses in the finished playground was the feedback from the community. The kids at Cabot loved it, as did the teachers, but many people in the community commented on how great it was and how nice it looked.

Already, as we've just begun to imagine the outside space transformed into a workable outdoor classroom, the students, teachers and neighbors are already showing the enthusiasm we saw with the playground project. There have been an amazing array of ideas and fantasies of what this space could offer us all. I feel lucky to again be so involved in helping Cabot School be all that it can be.

Sincerely, Merry Grand

Merry Gerard

CABOT SCHOOL 229 Cabot Street Newtonville, Massachusetts 02460

Marilynne Smith Quarcoo Principal

(617)559-9400 Fax 552-5584

November 3, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson, Members of the Community Preservation Committee, and City of Newton Representatives:

We are writing as a group of teacher leaders to express our support for the Cabot School Outdoor Classroom Project. We represent a group of teachers whose teaching experience ranges from two to over thirty years of service in the Newton Public Schools. Each of us brings a unique set of skills and interests to our work. This summer, supported by funding from the Newton Public Schools and the Newton Schools Foundation, we worked collaboratively with our principal, Marilynne Smith Quarcoo, Mary Eich, K-12 Mathematics Curriculum Coordinator, Yvonne Spicer, K-12 Career and Technology Curriculum Coordinator, and Jan Ham, consultant from Learning By Design to create learning experiences for our students that are meaningful. This work was an extension of our continuing efforts to create lessons that will allow our students to develop healthy attitudes toward civic responsibility while making practical application of learned skills. We identified a set of essential outcomes for their engagement in a design process that would result in significant improvements to the outdoor area adjacent to our school. Cabot School is nestled in a densely populated neighborhood. The street

behind the school does not benefit from amenities as do other Newton neighborhoods adjacent to other schools. These residents must view the school parking lot, modular classrooms, dumpsters, an oil clean-up shed, and an under-developed area that formerly was a small school playground. Over the years there have been several attempts to improve this open space. Despite the efforts of parents and students to maintain the area, it requires substantial financial resources to conduct a project that would have sustainability and appeal to the cross section of people who access the space.

As a school community we are engaging our students in a highly innovative project to spark their curiosity and creativity in relationship to the design and use of this space. Our students have responded enthusiastically to their authentic learning experience. They also understand they are contributing to the improvement of the quality of life for residents in the Newtonville neighborhood adjacent to the school.

Assistance from the CPA would supplement our financial resources and allow us to make this project a reality. Children and adults in Newton are fortunate to be able to benefit from beautiful parks and a host of recreational areas. Cabot Field is one such example. However last spring, when we exposed our students to the elements of the design process, They clearly recognized that no nearby spaces were available for people to engage in more passive, reflective activities. They identified a need to develop an area where people of all ages could sit, relax, and observe nature. They also brainstormed possible solutions. Students were given the opportunity to construct plans that incorporated their consideration of the community as well as school needs. We assembled as a school to display their projects. It was obvious that students approached their task

with a seriousness of purpose. Many students questioned the utility of their efforts and began to lobby teachers and parents to help them bring their ideas to reality.

This autumn, armed with a more refined understanding of the process to create an outdoor venue for learning and living, students have been engaged in collecting the necessary data for them to better understand suitability of their earlier solutions. The CPA s thoughtful consideration of our application would allow Cabot students an opportunity to contribute to an identified need in the City of Newton. Rather than being passive recipients of the city's effort to improve sites across the city, our students could learn through their active engagement what it means to be a citizen of a city, state, and country. The ultimate goal of public education is to create a knowledgeable, informed citizenry prepared to make positive contributions to the betterment of life. Developing the constructive dispositions associated with living in a democracy should be encouraged at an early age. As teachers we welcome this responsibility and ask that you carefully consider the outcomes that can be achieved.

Sincerely,

Heidi Lucas

Audrey Bellinger

Erika Scott

Lois Strother

Muriel Jones

Mary Emma Robertson

Mary Emma Robertson

Russell Springer Lani Gerson

ATTACHMENT 5: CREDENTIALS AND RESUMES

A. PROJECT/CONSTRUCTION MANAGER p. 49-51

B. DESIGN CONSULTANTS p. 52-55

C. CABOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF p. 56-62

10 Clarendon Street Newton, MA 02460 617-527-7690

Experience

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

1997-

David Valbracht ~ Landscape Architect

Newton and Great Barrington, MA

Provide land planning and landscape design services for academic, institutional, and residential projects. Projects include master planning for Kimberton Waldorf School, Northfield Mount Hermon School and Berkshire Country Day School.

ENVIRONMENTAL COURSE LEADER

1994-1996

Emerson College

Sussex, England

Directed the Environmental Design Course. Taught classes on landscape and environmental design. Advised students on individual and class design and planning projects. Organized and led week-end workshops, summer design courses and international environmental work camps that implemented student designs.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES TEACHER

1995-1996

Tobias School of Art

Sussex, England

Taught classes on gardening, botany, and the environment to art and art therapy students. Led the students in practical garden and landscape projects on the school grounds.

GARDENING TEACHER

1994

Michael Hall School

Sussex, England

Taught gardening and environment classes and worked with students to improve the extensive grounds at this Waldorf School.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

1990-1994

David Valbracht ~ Landscape Architect

Port Townsend, WA

Provided land planning and landscape design services for commercial, governmental, and residential projects. Projects included the Master Plan for Gibbs Lake County Park, the Port Townsend Wastewater Treatment Facility, and Pope Marine Park.

INSTRUCTOR

1992-1993

Edmonds Community College

Edmonds, WA

Taught landscape design and landscape construction courses as part of the horticulture program.

INSTRUCTOR

1988-1993

South Puget Sound Community College

Olympia, WA

North Seattle Community College

Seattle, WA

Taught landscape design courses and workshops as part of community education programs.

PARKS PLANNER

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Olympia, WA

1989-1990

Planned renovations for public recreation areas. Developed plans for land managers, prepared specifications, and monitored construction. Prepared plans to protect water quality at sites adjacent to streams and lakes.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER

1987-19989

Washington State Department of Ecology

Olympia, WA

Program Planner in the Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling. Developed comprehensive program plans and prepared and monitored a \$7 biennial budget. Provided planning and budget assistance to program manager and field offices.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

1984-1986

Altgelt-Valbracht Associates

Temple, NH

Provided site planning and landscape design services for commercial, industrial, and residential projects. Projects included Water's Edge Resort and Route 128 Corporate Center.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

. 1981-1983

John Crowe Associates

Belmont, MA

Prepared site planning and landscape design plans and details.

GARDENER

1976-1977

Round Valley Garden Project

Covelo CA

Worked as staff member of this horticultural training institute under the direction of English horticulturist Alan Chadwick who introduced the French-Intensive method of gardening.

Education

Masters in Landscape Architecture Harvard University Cambridge, MA
Masters in Public Administration Harvard University Cambridge, MA
Bachelor of Science U.S. Military Academy West Point, NY

Registered Landscape Architect in Massachusetts and New York.

Publications

"The Art of Ecological Restoration" in *Restoration 89: The New Management Challenge. Proceedings of the First Annual Conference*. H. Glenn Hughes and Thomas M. Bonickson, eds. Madison, WI, Society for Ecological Restoration, 1990.

"Healing the Earth and Humanity" and "Spirit of Place in the Evolution of the Earth and Humanity" in *Gaia's Hidden Life: The Unseen Intelligence of Nature*. Quest Books, 1992.

NEWTON ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

49 Blake Street Newton, MA 02460 617-332-3654

I submit the following qualifications for your review:

<u>Massachusetts Construction Supervisor</u> License # CS 066724 (Unrestricted) <u>University of Notre Dame</u>. Bachelor of Art. 1981

Owner. Newton Environmental Design and Construction 1995 to Present: Specializing in custom design and design build residential and light commercial projects.

Projects of Interests

121 Beach Street, Boston.

Member of the design and construction team that converted an 8 story manufacturing and storage building into a mixed use building that included 21 loft style apartments and street level retail. This project became the model for similar conversion projects in Boston's Leather District.

48 Sargent Street, Newton.

Currently a member of the design and project management team for the largest single-family residence in Newton (27,000-sq. ft. and \$25 million projected construction cost)

Technical Rep/Sales Manager Heat Inc.

1982 to1995:

Heat Inc. is one of the largest distributors of HVAC and construction equipment in the United States. My responsibilities included calling on architects, engineers and contractors throughout Boston and the Northeast to aid them in the design of mechanical systems in all types of construction projects, including commercial, industrial, institutional, and multi-unit residential.

President, Board of Directors.

1986 to present:

Construction Advisor to Matthew 25 Inc.

Matthew 25 Inc. is a non-profit, charitable group that, among other things, purchases and renovates distressed properties. These properties are often donated to M25 Inc. or are purchased by M25 Inc. from various municipalities after a tax taking. Once renovated these multi-unit houses are rented to low income residents with the goal of providing affordable housing. M25 Inc. currently has over 20 units in service in Worcester and Boston.

Thank you for your consideration. I will be glad to provide you with any needed additional information or references.

Jan Ham

LEARNING BY DESIGN CONSULTANT 131 Hillside Road Franklin, MA 02038 508-528-4517 arch-ed@mindspring.com

Education

1976: University of Connecticut: Bachelor of Arts: Children and their Literature

1979: Southern Connecticut College: Masters Library Science & Instructional Technology / Media Certification

Children's Library Services

1980 - 1996: Children's Librarian: Lincoln, Rhode Island and North Attleboro, Massachusetts

1993: The Architectural Education Resource Center

Founded AERC, offering children's design workshops, residencies, community-building events, professional development workshops, conference presentations, curriculum development, print resources, web page.

1993-1999:

Instructor: <u>FutureWorks</u>, Dean College's program for gifted and talented, grades 4 - 8. Created and conducted K-12 Design programs for SMARTS Collaborative, Norton, MA.

1997 - 2000:

Developed and taught project-based Design program for at-risk youth, the <u>Network Program</u>, Attleboro, MA. Attended <u>Design Educators in Action</u>, Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum, NYC.

Presented at workshops and conferences: Rhode Island School of Design; MAST (Science educators);

New England Art educators; TEAM (Technology educators); NELMS (Middle School educators).

1998:

Published "Playground Mathematics" in NCTM Magazine; "Box Architecture" in TIES Magazine. Published Designing Playgrounds, a hands-on Math book, Dale Seymour Publications.

1999 - present:

<u>Learning by Design in Massachusetts (LBD:MA)</u> Program Director, Boston Society of Architects:

Responsible for K-12 program development, school and community partnerships, architects-in-residencies, grant-writing, marketing, teacher and architect training programs, resource library.

LBD:MA grants: Children's Community Design Charrettes (The Dunn Foundation)

The South Boston Waterfront, a Universal View (Adaptive Environments, Children's Museum)

Places to Learn (The Boston Foundation for Architecture)

<u>Designing Our River Heritage</u> (National Endowment for the Arts)

Editorial Advisory Committee, TIES Magazine (Design and Technology Education).

Current member: Center for Understanding the Built Environment.

2000 - 2003:

Developed and taught <u>Teaching by Design</u>, a 3-credit graduate-level course at University of Massachusetts and Massachusetts College of Art.

Developed and taught courses for middle/high school students at Massachusetts College of Art and UMass Lowell. Published web-based lesson plans for the <u>Center for Understanding the Built Environment</u>.

Learning by Design in Massachusetts is a children's education program of the Boston Society of Architects. Master teachers and volunteer architects engage children and youth, in and out of schools, in hands-on, real-world design projects. In professional development workshops teachers and youth program providers practice interdisciplinary ways of involving children in the design process. Since 1998 LBD:MA has given children the opportunity to express their ideas their built environment, about their community, and about themselves. By giving children the tools to make informed decisions about their built and natural environments, LBD:MA enables the next generation of designers, community leaders, and citizens to build a better future.

LBD:MA master teachers develop and deliver *Children's Design Workshops*. Themes include: Designing Dream Houses, History through Structures, Places to Learn, and Box City. Staff are often involved in programs from the planning level onward; the most successful projects are those that use real places and spaces in the children's own communities as study sites. Boston public school children have redesigned their schoolyards in the Outdoor Learning Spaces program. Places to Learn will be a corollary of that: educational facilities architects are working with LBD:MA to pilot a program wherein children design educational environments. Children from urban, suburban and rural areas have taken part in Box Cities, wherein an entire K-5 school, 500 students, work together to plan, build, and use a scale model city based on their own town.

In Youth Community Design Charrettes children select and solve a problem in the built environment of their own community. Boston children worked with LBD:MA staff at the Children's Museum to draw and build a model of their own vision for the South Boston Waterfront. Children from middle schools in Taunton, Attleboro and Lawrence studied their downtowns and created projects based on those areas. Be it a look back at historic buildings, students' designs for turning a nearby vacant lot into a community center, or investigations on how sprawl can effect quality of life, in every case children are realizing their connection to their neighborhood, region, and world.

LBD:MA programs are based on the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks learning standards and evaluated by an outcomes logic methodology. Tailored to cross curriculum areas, they link mathematics, science, technology, social studies, language, and art. Professional development, offered at various sites, ranges from 10-hour workshops to 45-hour graduate courses. LBD:MA also offers curriculum planning and consultation services and maintains a collection of teaching resources housed at the BSA offices.

Since 1998 LBD:MA has worked with 2000 children, reached 300 educators and community youth service providers, and met 100 architects and designers interested in children's architectural programs. From 2000 to 2001, as contacts with architects, teachers and community organizations increased, program days increased from 24 to 55. The Boston Foundation for Architecture, the Dunn Foundation, the Boston Foundation's Schoolyard Initiative project, and the American Institute for Architecture have all contributed to LBD:MA program funds.

LBD:MA staff will serve as teaching and development consultants on this project: Jan Ham, program director and a master teacher of LBD:MA, has nine years of experience in the development and delivery of built environment programs. She has taught children, from pre-school to age 18, in programs ranging from those for gifted-and-talented children to those for at-risk youth. Her book <u>Designing Playgrounds</u> is a hands-on mathematics project book published by Dale Seymour Publications. Jan has taught a 3-credit graduate course,

"Teaching by Design," at the University of Massachusetts and Massachusetts College of Art, and is on the teaching staff for MassArt's Summer Studios programs for middle and high school youth.

Since 1986, architect Polly Carpenter, AIA, has done residential, educational, commercial, and institutional design work. In 1997 she opened her own firm while developing her interest in children's design education. As a master teacher with LBD:New York, Polly took part in school-aged design projects that included the City of Neighborhoods program. Since moving to Cambridge she has been actively involved as a lead master teacher in all LBD:MA program levels.

Marilynne Smith Quarcoo Principal, Cabot Elementary School

Telephone: 617-276-3156 E-Mail: marilynne quarcoo@newton.mec.edu

Education

Professional School Administrators Program (PSAP). Boston College. Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts Anticipated Ph.D. in Educational Administration. 2004

Master of Education, Educational Psychology. Boston College. Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. 1974

Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education. Boston College. Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. 1972

Employment

K- 5 Principal Cabot School. Newton, Massachusetts

1990 - present

Educational leader in a large suburban district in the metropolitan Boston area. School population of approximately 400 students and 60 educational and support staff. Responsible for site based management including curriculum and instructional leadership, program development, hiring and dismissal, supervision and evaluation of teaching and non-teaching staff, budget preparation, physical plant use and maintenance, and community relationships. Develop and maintain core values for the school. Establish and Co-chair State mandated school council that develops and implements school improvement plans. Oversee all special education services; collaborate with PTO, After-School Program, and community education programs. Serve on system wide committees: Administrative Council, Social Studies Curriculum Review, Alternative Assessment, District Leadership Team for Active Anti-Racism, Mentoring and Induction Committee, City-Wide Crisis Team. Conduct faculty meetings; structure system wide and school based professional development opportunities.

K- 12 METCO Director Wellesley, Massachusetts

1987 -1990

Overall responsibilities for the state legislated and funded voluntary school desegregation program enrolling 180 students in eight elementary schools, one middle and one high school. Responsible for \$.5 million budget. Hired and supervised 5 professional staff, 1 clerical staff, and 5 transportation and educational support staff. Designed programs to enhance school staff effectiveness in areas of curriculum, parent and student communication, expectations, and acceptance. Established school system as founding member of the Eastern Massachusetts Initiative, a seven town collaborative to improve the academic achievement of black students. Conducted parent meetings and led parent and student seminars. Responsible for transportation schedules and services between Boston and Wellesley. Served on school based and district wide administrative committees.

continued

Grade Two Teacher Pierce School. Brookline, Massachusetts

1976 -1987

Responsible for the development of all students. Provided an inclusive and safe environment for learning. Designed and implemented integrated curriculum through collaboration with grade level, special education, and program area specialists. Designed record-keeping and classroom management systems. Assessed and reported student progress. Involved parents and the community in the classroom. Participated in and designed staff development and professional development programs. Supervised student teachers from Wheelock and Simmons Colleges. Served on school and district committees.

Multicultural Specialist, K-8 Pierce School. Brookline, Massachusetts

1975 -1976

Member of an interdisciplinary district wide team. Designed co-taught lessons and units. Modeled multicultural pedagogy. Structured school based staff development. Provided and identified multicultural materials for classrooms, instructional units and school instructional media centers. Created multicultural resource handbook. Consulted with principal to mediate interpersonal issues and to redefine school culture.

Grade 1- 6 Reading Specialist Lincoln and Pierce Schools. Brookline, Massachusetts 1974 -1975

Assigned to buildings to provide reading and language arts instruction in individual and small groups settings. Worked collaboratively with Special Education and Title I staff. Used diagnostic and multisensory strategies.

Acting Director/Area Coordinator Alliance for Coordinated Services Boston, Massachusetts

1973 -1974

Assumed responsibilities for operations of a non-profit agency, which facilitated social and mental health services to selected Boston Public Schools. Reported to board and supervised 4 staff. Organized school based teams representing major hospitals and community agencies. Structured referral system in conjunction with building principal and school adjustment counselor and guidance staff.

Kindergarten/Grade One Teacher New School for Children. Boston, Massachusetts

1972 - 1973

Primary level staff for an alternative school originally founded by Jonathan Kozol in response to the de facto segregation in the Boston Public Schools. During its final years, this parent run school enrolled approximately 100 students. Created and implemented a full day academic program for five and six year old children. Designed curriculum with an Afro-centric, multicultural emphasis integrating the arts, physical, and social development.

continued

Other Experiences

Partner. Garvey Tours and Travel, Inc.

1996 - present

Lexington, Massachusetts

Arrange group and individual travel to West Africa and Jamaica.

Practicum Supervisor for Principal Internships

1999-2000

Boston College

Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Supervised and evaluated on-site principal interns in area elementary schools.

District Facilitator.

Eastern Massachusetts Initiative

1995 - 1997

Wayland, Massachusetts

Plan and support active anti-racism efforts in district.

Lecturer. Graduate School of Education

Summer 1995

Lesley College. Cambridge, Massachusetts

Six-week course: Issues in Multicultural Education

Facilitator. Graduate School of Education

Summer 1991

Wheelock College. Boston, Massachusetts Summer Institute: Leadership for Diversity

Field Placement in West Africa

Summer 1976

Teachers' College, Columbia University

Nine-week curriculum development project in Ghana, Togo, and Benin, West Africa funded by the US Department of Education in conjunction with the African American Institute, New York.

Presenter/Consultant

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents: Technology Leadership Conference Presenter: The Deeper Digital Divide Fall 2000

Concord-Carlisle METCO Program: Effective and Engaged Parents Summer 1999, 2000

ASCD Conference: Creating Multicultural Organizations: Issues of Hiring and Retention Spring 1999, 2001

NESDEC Presenter: The Role of the Principal in Engaging Parents and the Community

Winter 1998

NESDEC Keynote Speaker: So You Want To Be A Principal

Spring 1998

ASCD Conference: Active Anti-Racism and School Culture

Spring 1998, 2000

METCO Conference: Panel on Creating MultiCultural Organizations

Spring 1998

Empowering Multicultural Initiatives Panel: Affirmative Action Winter 1998

Whitman-Hanson Regional School District: Core Values and Diversity

1997-1998

Lexington Public Schools: K-12 staff development. Active Anti-Racism

Fall 1996

Lexington Montessori School: Panel on Diversity in Schools

Spring 1996

continued

AERA conference: Active Anti-Racist Leadership Spring 1996

AERA conference: Diversified Assessment Spring 1995

Simmons College: Panel on Teacher Recruitment Spring 1994

METCO Directors' Association:

Parent Seminar on Successful Homework Practices
Lincoln Public Schools: Africa in the Curriculum
Wheelock College: Panel on Teacher Education
African Studies Association Conference: Ghana
Spring 1991
Spring 1989
Spring 1979
Winter 1977

Certifications

Massachusetts Elementary Principal. Grades K-5 and 6-8

Massachusetts Supervisor/Director. Grade K-8

Massachusetts Elementary Teacher. Grades K-8

Massachusetts Superintendent, pending

Affiliations

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Technology Leadership Network (MASS/TLN)

National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)

Massachusetts Elementary School Principals Association (MESPA)

Harvard Principals' Center

National Association of Multicultural Education [NAME]

National Alliance of Black School Educators [NABSE]

American Educational Research Association [AERA]

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development [ASCD]

National Council for Social Studies [NCS]

National Council of Teachers of English [NCTE]

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics [NCTM]

Brookline Schools Foundation, Board Member. 1995 to 1998

Agassiz Village Camp. Board Member. 1992 - 1995

METCO Directors' Association. Member. 1987 - 1990

Interests

Reading, traveling, cooking, and spending time with family and friends

References

Available upon request

West Newton, MA 02465 (617) 527-6502

Education

Lesley College Graduate School, Cambridge, MA	1994
M.A. in Elementary Education	
Certification: Grades $1-6$	
Kenyon College, Gambier OH	1987
B.A. in English Literature	
Distinction received on Senior Thesis	
Exeter University, Exeter, England	1986
Junior year study in England	
Tabor Academy, Marion, MA	1983
High School Diploma	
Provincetown High School, Provincetown, MA	1981

Teaching Experience

Cabot School, Newton, MA

Classroom Teacher, Grade 5, Science and History

1995-Present

- School Science Representative
- Developed and piloted science and history curricula
- Member of city-wide and school-based Gender Committees
- Working with a GK12 Fellow—a graduate student in Physics from BU/MIT
- Building Union Representative
- Serving on PTO Council
- Supporting Literacy Initiative
- Delegate to Hiroshima and Nagasaki World Peace Conference in Japan during summer of 2001.
- Exchange Teacher to Jingsham School, Beijing, China in 2001 for four months.

Brookwood School, Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA

1994

Science Teacher, Grades 1-4

- Designed and implemented entire curriculum for grades 1-4
- Worked on School Improvement Committee

Baker School, Brookline, MA

1993

Student Teacher, Grade 3

• Designed and implemented units on "Weather" and "Mayan Civilization"

Other Experience

Charlesbank Bookstore, Boston University, Boston, MA	1992-1994
Trade Stock Coordinator	
Strand Bookstore, New York, NY	1991-1992
Clerk/Receiving	
North American Precis Syndicate, New York, NY	1989-1990
Vice President, Results and Reports	
References Available Upon Request	

AUDREY BELLINGER

51 Simpson Avenue Somerville, MA 02144 (617) 628-7818

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Cabot School, Newton, MA

December 1998-present

Teacher, Kindergarten

• Kindergarten representative on Literacy Team

- Participated with school based standards team in establishing writing criteria
- Active in Outdoor Classroom committee

Cambridge School Department

Fall 1998

Substitute Teacher

- Worked as daily substitute in grades kindergarten through eighth including Portuguese bilingual program
- One month substitute position in inclusion kindergarten at the Haggerty School
- Assisted in implementing complex behavior plan for student with severe special needs

Odyssey Day School, Wakefield, MA

Fall 1995-1998

Teacher, Kindergarten and First Grade Classroom; Art Specialist, Grades K-6

- Designed and taught kindergarten curriculum using integrated theme-based approach and cooperative learning techniques
- Developed and taught art curriculum for grades K-6
- Coordinated school-wide arts week with special events and exhibits
- Created semester-long, mixed-age workshops including writing and illustrating picture books, cooking, kitchen science, puppet-making and drama
- Integrated Spanish into kindergarten curriculum
- Participated in team evaluations and implemented educational plans
- Taught combined kindergarten and first grade classroom for one year

Lawrence School, Brookline, MA

Fall 1994

Student Teacher, Grade 2

- Integrated literature, math, social studies, science and art for a whole language unit on soil
- Implemented science talks to develop critical thinking skills
- Created and utilized language arts materials for ESL students
- Utilized classroom computers for developmental language arts instruction for English and non-English speaking students

Arts All Day, Cambridge, MA

Summers 1993 -1994

Teacher, *Grades* 1-8

- Taught visual art component of an integrated arts program for 6-11 year old children
- Collaborated to create an original performance using visual arts, storytelling, drama, music, and movement
- Oversaw and guided teenage counselors

Department of Human Services, Cambridge, MA

1989-1990

Teacher, Grades K-6

- Designed and taught elementary after school classes in art at the Agassiz, Longfellow, and Maynard Schools in Cambridge, MA
- Trained for and taught Cosmos program designed by The Museum of Science, Boston, MA

Mercy Center for the Arts, Erie, PA

1979-1981

Teacher, Preschool

- Cooperatively taught an integrated arts and science program for preschool children
- Created an after school and weekend program for elementary school children
- Designed and implemented an intergenerational program for the preschool and senior center

Balboa Senior High School, Panama Canal Zone *Student Teacher*, *Art*, *Grades* 10-12

1976

EDUCATION

Lesley College, Cambridge, MA

• M.Ed., Elementary Education and Creative Arts in Learning, 1996

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

- B.S., Art Education, 1976
- B.A., Art, 1974

CERTIFICATION

- Elementary, 1-6
- Early Childhood, Pre K-3
- Art/Visual Art, K-9
- Art/Visual Art, 5-12

ATTACHMENT 6: FUNDING COMMITMENT LETTERS

229 Cabot Street

Newtonville MA 02460

617-559-9400



To Whom it May Concern:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Cabot School Outdoor Classroom project.

A curriculum-based school-wide project that will enhance school grounds is an exciting concept for Cabot School. Participating in this project will give students an opportunity to apply techniques from several academic disciplines, including mathematics, science, and technology. As a result of their efforts, they will eventually see a student-designed outdoor learning space that will be useful to the entire community.

To demonstrate our belief in the value of the Outdoor Classroom project, the PTO has supported the project for the last several years with volunteer involvement, including assistance with grant writing, parent/teacher training sessions, classroom design projects, and even basic clean up of the physical space. In addition, the PTO has donated over \$10,000 during the past three academic years to be used in the project.

We believe the creation of an Outdoor Classroom will create many hands-on learning opportunities for students and, better yet, will help unite our school community around a common goal.

Sincerely,

Janet Porcaro

PTO Co-President

617-964-9592

janet@janetporcaro.net

and

Sally Brickell

PTO Co-President

617-527-5438

brickland6@rcn.com

Sally Brickell

NEWTON ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

49 Blake Street Newton, MA 02460 617-332-3654

November 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Cabot School Outdoor Classroom

I am a parent of a Cabot School student and serve as Co- Chairperson of the Cabot School Outdoor Classroom Project. I have served on this committee since it s inception three years ago. Formerly, I was a Co-Chairperson of the Cabot School Playground Committee and acted as the Project/ Construction Manager on that project. Currently, I am PTO Co-President at Bigelow Middle School. In my professional life, I serve as an advisor to The Albemarle Playground and Community Classroom project. I am a licensed Construction Supervisor and the owner of The Newton Environmental Design and Construction Company.

In my capacity as a volunteer Project/Construction Manager to the Cabot Playground project, I oversaw the completion of the project in Spring 2000. The project had a final cost of \$65,000 and included more active recreational features for the students at the school. The current proposal to develop other open spaces adjacent to the school will create a necessary balance for the community by providing a passive recreational area for a larger population.

We took an existing site and did extensive excavation and re-grading, coordinated all of the necessary sub-contractors, negotiated reduced costs and in-kind donations of labor, equipment, and services from these contractors. All of our efforts were done in cooperation with the appropriate city departments specifically the School and the Parks and Recreation Departments. The Playground project was heralded by all City agencies involved as one of the most efficiently run, trouble and issue free community building projects of its type.

We completed the project on time, under budget, with the endorsement and participation of the surrounding community and with no injuries. Our committee held evening meetings with neighborhood residents and incorporated their concerns into our final design plans. The City gave us great latitude in performing major excavation and construction tasks due to the expertise of the team involved in the project. This entire team will be participating in The Outdoor Classroom Project.

I have agreed to function as the Project/Construction Manager of The Outdoor Classroom. I will be donating my time and services, and the services of some of my subcontractors to this project. The total estimated in-kind services I anticipate donating will be \$28,000.00.

Sincerely,

Michael McSally

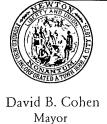
Michael McSally

Owner

Newton Environmental Design and Construction

ATTACHMENT 7: SITE CONTROL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Cabot Elementary School Putto Classicon DINGS DEPARTMENT



A. NICHOLAS PARNELL, AIA, COMMISSIONER
Telephone (617) 796-1600
FAX (617) 796-1601
52 ELLIOT STREET
NEWTON HIGHLANDS, MA 02461-1605

October 30, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Goldson Member of the Conservation Preservation Committee and City of Newton Representative

RE: Cabot School, 229 Cabot Street, Newtonville

Dear Ms. Goldson:

Please be advised that the property located at 229 Cabot Street, Newtonville, MA 02460, known as the Cabot School is owned and maintained by the City of Newton's Public Buildings Department.

The area identified in this grant that is adjacent to the modular classrooms has no environmental issues.

Should you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact my office at 617-796-1600.

Sincerely,

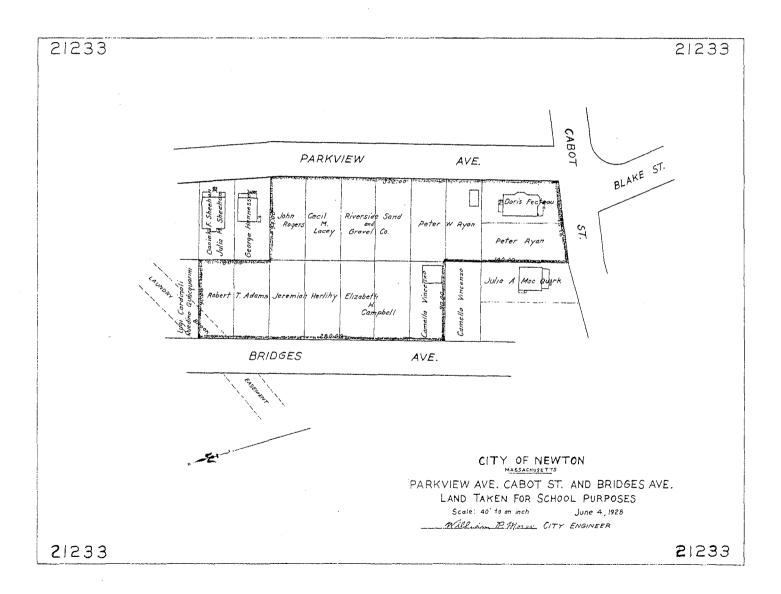
A. Nicholas Parnell, AIA

Public Buildings Commissioner

ANP:dla

CC: Michael Cronin, Chief of Operations

ATTACHMENT 8: CURRENT SITE - AERIAL VIEW & ORIGINAL SITE PLAN



N- 59

Newton Public Schools Cabot Elementary School Outdoor Classroom



