

Newton Early Childhood Program, NECP, Project



The NECP project is complete, and the students have moved in. It's so exciting to see Newton's youngest learners and the incredible NECP staff settling into their new home. The project was completed on time and on budget. After converting the building to completely electric heating and cooling we enrolled in Newton Power Choice making NECP the first net zero school in Newton.

On Wednesday, January 25th at 8:45am there will be a Ribbon Cutting event in front of the school. Everyone is welcome to join us there but if you can't make the Ribbon Cutting you can also join us between 10am and Noon on Saturday, January 28th for a community open house.

Lincoln-Eliot School Project

BUILDING DESIGN UPDATE INTERIOR MATERIALS



COMMON AREAS

Media Center

- Floor: Carpet Tile
- Walls: Acoustical Wall Panels & Painted
- Ceiling: Exposed & Acoustical Clouds

Gymnasium

- Floor: Wood Athletic Flooring
- Walls: Pads, Acoustical Panels & Painted
- Ceiling: Exposed

Cafeteria

- Floor: Resilient Tile
- Walls: Existing Wood Panels & Painted
- Ceiling: Acoustical Ceiling Tile

Auditorium

- Floor: Carpet and Painted Concrete
- Walls: Existing Wood Panels & Painted
- Ceiling: Acoustical Ceiling Tile and Acoustical Panel

Kitchen

- Floor: Existing Quarry Tile
- Walls: Existing Tile Walls
- Ceiling: Cleanable Lay-In Grid Ceiling

Restrooms

- Floor: Epoxy Flooring
- Walls: FRP Walls
- Ceiling: Acoustical Ceiling Tile

Back of House

- Floor: Sealed Concrete
- Walls: FRP & Painted
- Ceiling: Exposed

The Lincoln-Eliot School project is at the very end of the design development phase. Our focus over the past few months has been refining the design and adding details to the interior spaces and the site features. We've also begun to work on the interior materials, colors, and finishes which is always a fun step as it begins to breath life into the spaces. The above images are some concepts that we're working from. We are about to enter the construction document design phase, and the project is on track to begin selective demolition in the fall of 2023, and complete construction in the summer of 2025.

If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at lincolneliot@newtonma.gov.

Newton Center for Active Living, NewCAI, Project



Third Floor Lounge



Walking Track



The NewCAL project is at the very end of the design development phase and is about to enter the construction document design phase. The exterior of the building remains as previously presented except for a few minor refinements to some of the fenestrations which typically occur in this design phase. The interior of the building has evolved in subtle ways in direct response to feedback from the community and various stakeholders.

As you can see in the images above, we have begun to add details to the circulation spaces on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The administrative area on the second floor became more defined, and as such some additional space was available to become a 3rd activity room. The art room now has a separate and defined kiln/ceramics room and storage closet. The primary stairwell has been split from a single 3-flight set of stairs, to two separate stairwells from the 1st to 2nd floor, and 2nd to 3rd floor. This was done to help reduce the physical demands that a single stairwell would place on the visitors. We are currently working with BH+A to introduce furnishings to the various spaces. We're also spending some quality time on the design of the reception desk as this will be a critical component of the entrance and feeling of the new facility. The Connick stained-glass windows will be restored and prominently displayed within the new building, and several locations are being considered.

We are on track to begin selecting historical salvage this spring, and demolition this summer. Construction is expected to be complete in the summer or fall of 2024.

Additional project info can be found at newcal.projects.nv5.com. If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at newcal@newtonma.gov. The next NewCAL community meeting will be on Thursday, January 19th at 6:30pm and you can join the meeting by clicking [here](#).

Gath Pool Project



The Gath Pool project is in the schematic design phase. Working with our design team from BH+A, we have found a way to address our goals and objectives, while also creating a two-pool design that will work better for all stakeholders. The latest two-pool design can be seen above.

While this approach is slightly more expensive to construct and operate, it will yield a finished product that simply checks more boxes for everyone. We have taken this new design back to key stakeholders for preliminary feedback and are heartened by their initial assessment. As with the previous one-pool design, the new “Gath Pool 4.0” two-pool design has elements that require some compromise between different stakeholders. All the compromises have been emphatically embraced to allow for this optimal design. The new pool design and all previous project materials can be viewed at <http://www.newtonma.gov/gathpoolproject>.

We are currently working on refining the work being done to the bathhouse, as well as the elements to be installed on and around the pool deck and splash pad. A stock image of the types of splash pad features we’re beginning to study can be seen above. Although the building footprint is not changing, and the site plan is remarkably similar to what exists today, we will be seeking site plan approval in March. We will also be working closely with the Community Preservation Committee in the coming months as we seek Community Preservation Act funds to help fund the project. We will be moving quickly to advance the design so that we may start construction immediately after the 2023 swim season concludes, with our goal of opening the new pool for the start of the 2024 swim season.

If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at gathpool@newtonma.gov. To see a recent presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission on the Gath Pool project, please click [here](#).

Countryside School Project

Architectural Priorities *Continued*

Safety

- Safety – clear entrance
- Safety and security

Comfort and Flexibility

- Flexible furniture
- Ergonomic furniture

Professional Work Areas

- Teacher only spaces
- Break spaces for teachers
- Teachers room and workspace on each floor
- Teachers room on every floor with laminator, copier, etc.
- Designated space for printers/copiers/supplies

Breakout and Quiet Spaces

- Break spaces within classrooms
- Breakout rooms
- Appropriately placed blue rooms with breakout room next to it
- "Safe rooms"/break spaces that feel less institutional
- Break spaces for kids that are separate from calm/blue rooms
- Functional break-out spaces for small groups
- Quiet learning spaces

Thoughtful Grade Level Configuration

- K-5 spaces differentiated from each other
- Separating K/1 rooms from 4th and 5th grades

Agile Classrooms

- Larger classrooms
- Rectangular classrooms
- Child centered and child sized
- Group spaces that are easy to access
- Appropriate size classrooms and storage
- A fully functional classroom without many needs of leaving the classroom
- Coat hooks inside the classrooms

Meeting and Small Group Spaces

- Meeting (adult) space
- Extension small group workspaces
- Small group spaces and offices
- Small group instruction spaces
- Small group instruction in functional spaces



Collaborative and Gathering Spaces

- Heart of school idea
- Spaces for engaging and collaborative learning
- Gathering spaces for school celebrations and for the community
- Spaces for building community

Classroom Neighborhoods

- Classroom neighborhoods for projects
- Classroom neighborhoods with common space and pull-out/pull-over areas
- Grade-level "pods"

Special Educational Spaces

- SPED separate / inclusion rooms are nearby grades that students attend
- Therapeutic Spaces
- Space to provide intervention and support
- Pull-out space in hallway/classroom
- We have a program at Countryside that requires a sensory/break room, safe room, and classroom. It would be important to think about this program and the needs of the students moving forward to ensure their classroom/school experience is conducive to their learning needs.
- Sensory classroom
- Movement spaces

ELL

- Somewhat centrally located ELL classroom, since we work with students from all grades

Science

- Science/Nature exploration

The above image shows some of the notes the Countryside School staff visioning session.

Approach 6 | 465 Students | New Construction | 75,500 SF



The above concept is one of many being considered.

The Countryside School project is currently in the feasibility design phase in partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, MSBA. The School Committee just recently voted to approve the educational program and space summary. The Countryside School Building Committee will be voting shortly to submit the preliminary design program, PDP, to the MSBA. To date we have been studying two design enrollments. The first design enrollment is for 340 students, and the second is 465 students. The Countryside School currently has 371 students and is projected to grow to over 400 students in the coming years. As such, we will be recommending to the MSBA shortly that we now focus our attention solely on a design enrollment of 465 students.

Simultaneously, we are studying repair only, addition and renovation, and new construction options. While we have not yet decided as to which of these options will be selected, it is becoming increasingly clear that there are deep flaws with both the repair only and addition and renovation options.

The repair only option will not meet the educational program, will not deliver the number or size of spaces needed for the students, and may not be able to be legally completed based on the flood zone impacts.

The addition and renovation option would meet the educational program and provide the number and size of spaces needed for the students. However, the current school sits too deep within the flood zone. The legal requirements to resolve this matter would mean that we would need to raise the main floor of the entire building by several feet. There is not enough room from the floor to the ceiling to do this. The corresponding modifications to the existing building may make this scenario not viable, and at a minimum could make the approach cost prohibitive.

We will continue to study all options in the coming weeks and the opportunities and challenges associated with each scenario will be presented and discussed with the community and stakeholders.

For the new construction options, it is quite clear that the preference will be to site the building further to the north. This will allow us to shift away from South Meadow Brook, the wetlands, the flood zone,

and the lower topography. Should the decision be to pursue new construction, there will be many options studied, presented, and discussed.

Over the past few months, we have worked directly with the Countryside School staff through visioning sessions where they directly helped shape the project design. We've also completed our site search and selection process, which included the evaluation of almost 150 sites throughout Newton. Out of those sites, there were only a small handful within the Countryside School district, and those were all either parks or site currently used for other municipal purposes which were also on the very outer edges of the district. Therefore, the recommendation was that the current Countryside School site remain the site for the school project.

We've still got a tremendous amount of design work left to do, but you can review all project information, presentations, and materials at countrysideelementaryschoolproject.com.

We anticipate starting construction in the summer of 2025 and completing construction in the summer of 2027.

If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at countryside@newtonma.gov. The next Countryside School Building Committee and Community meeting is on Tuesday, January 17th at 6:00pm and you can join the meeting by clicking [here](#). To view the recording of a recent Countryside School project presentation please click [here](#).

Franklin School Project

Architectural Priorities *Continued*

Teacher/Staff Spaces

- A nice and comfortable staff room
- Kitchen appliances in teachers' room
- A big enough teacher's room
- Office space that can be used flexibly
- Oven in teachers' room
- Comfortable teacher meeting spaces with couches, meditation areas, and calming music

Special Education Spaces

- Spaces that prioritize students receiving special education services privacy and confidentiality while also being easily accessible from their main learning space
- Small groups- intervention and sped spaces
- Having plenty of space for de-escalation
- Daily living skills area

EL Spaces

- I would like to have at least two smaller classrooms for English Language (EL) students with storage and walls on which I could hang many items (maybe all cork board)

Culturally Responsive

- Spaces that reflect where students are from
- Flags back around building

Robust Technology

- Increased WIFI capability
- Technology charging stations
- Easily accessible and reliable technology
- Equitable working technology that is accessible and visible to all students
- Wireless sharing of ideas to a whiteboard
- Interactive whiteboards back to smartboard level not what we have now
- Ability to share/project student ideas on a board wirelessly
- Speakers that project outside so students/teachers at recess can also hear
- Intercom speaker that can be heard outside
- Two pronged outlets
- Convenient outlets

Flow and Connectivity

- Connectedness among the various parts
- Good Wayfinding

Outdoor Learning Space

- Outdoor classrooms
- Outdoor learning setups
- Garden classroom space
- Community garden
- Pavilion with picnic tables (permanent)
- More picnic tables for eating snack outside
- Safer outdoor play area
- Play space separate from learning
- A secure field with fences where kids can't leave/roam off
- A clock facing the playground

Universally Design Playground

- A fully accessible playground
- Wheelchair friendly playground

Display and Exhibition

- Walls that don't crumble and you can stick things too
- Places for exhibition of student work

Ergonomic and Varied Furniture

- Combo of soft and hard furniture
- Flexible seating



The above image shows some of the notes the Franklin School staff visioning session.

The Franklin School Project is currently paused awaiting project funding. Prefeasibility planning was completed over this past year, and the goal is to begin the feasibility design phase in a few months provided project funding is approved.

Over the fall, the Franklin School staff helped shape the future design through a visioning process where we all rolled up our sleeves and worked together. We're still a long way off from making decisions on the project approach and both addition and renovation and new construction design concepts will be studied, presented, and discussed. We anticipate starting construction in the summer of 2025 and completing construction in the summer of 2027.

To review the presentation, project information, and materials you can go to our project website [here](#). If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at franklin@newtonma.gov.

Horace Mann School Project

Architectural Priorities

Universal Design

- Egress needs to be safer and handicapped accessible
- Universally designed playground space

Safety and Welcome

- More welcoming front entrance and entry space
- Safe entry and emergency exit

Health and Wellness

- More water fountains with filters
- Nap room?

Joy and Warmth

- Brighter hallways
- Colorful or bright spaces
- Coloring the building!!!! Maybe with tiles. Fixing falling ceiling tiles

Agile and Varied Classrooms

- Larger classrooms that can incorporate movement/sensory needs within the room
- Spaces for flexible grouping
- Making sure that all classroom spaces are equitable in terms of size (i.e., one grade does not get the short end of the stick when it comes to the size of the classroom)
- Long narrow classrooms - best ways to utilize space
- Classroom sizes that can accommodate small breakout groups within the room, especially when there is only one Classroom teacher who can't leave the space to work with a small group



Good Flow and Wayfinding

- Ease of moment/flow within building
- Visually simple, removing visual clutter
- Sensory hallways

Natural Light and Lighting

- Windows and natural light!
 - Some rooms on inside of hall have no windows
- Lighten up hallways
- Better lighting

Thermal and Physical Comfort

- Good ventilation and AC
- Ventilation that works
- Laundry
- Full kitchen for staff

Spaces that Support Co-Teaching

- Defining Learning neighborhoods
- More co-teaching
- Collaboration with other teachers
- Working collaboratively to support students in inclusive environments

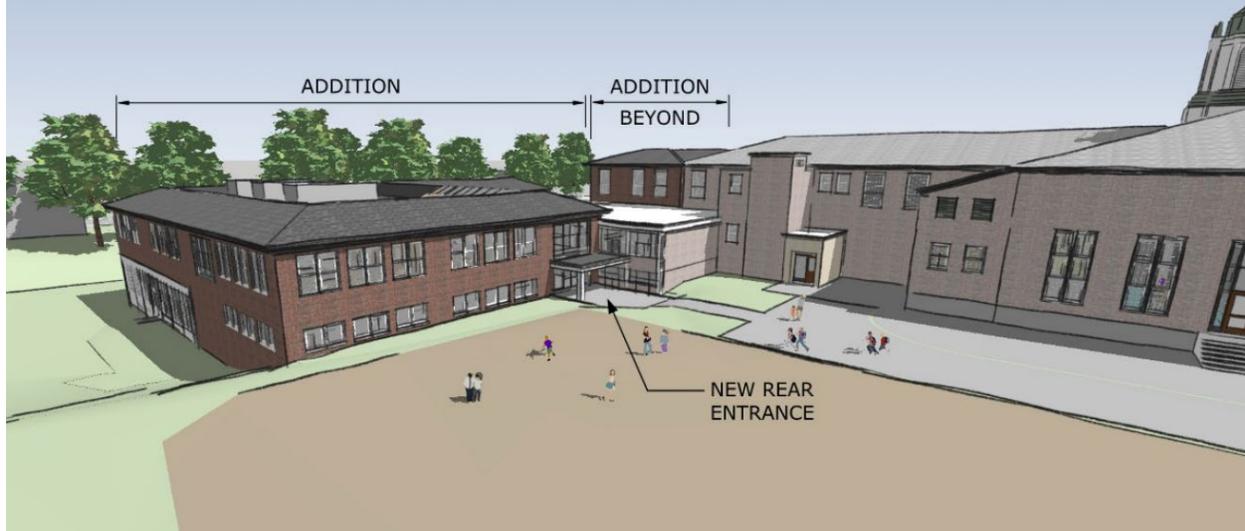
Collaboration and Connection

- Doors that connect classrooms for collaboration
- Spaces for staff to meet and collaborate in groups of various sizes
- Collaboration opportunities for staff and students
- Spaces for teachers to meet, plan, collaborate
- A staff room that is not also used for storage
- A staff room that promotes collegiality
- Ways to have teachers feel less cut off from other teachers

The above image shows some of the notes the Horace Mann School staff visioning session.

Preliminary D.8 Massing Study – Projected Completion September 2026

(Potential Massing after Phase 3/Summer #2 Work – Subject to Change)



The Horace Mann School Project is currently paused awaiting project funding. A large amount of the feasibility design phase was completed over the past year. The Horace Mann staff provided ample feedback and input through the visioning process. During this pause our internal team has been hard at work analyzing the site and interior design concepts in an effort to streamline the next phase of the design process so that we may move expeditiously once project funding is secured.

The goal is to move forward with finishing the feasibility design phase this spring and complete the design by the end of 2024. Construction is expected to start in the winter of 2025 and be complete by the fall of 2026.

To learn more about this project you check out our website [here](#). If you have any questions or comments about this project, you can email us at horacemann@newtonma.gov.