



June 5, 2020

Dear Horace Mann Community,

We wanted to give you an update on the status of the short term and long-term work at Horace Mann. The Mayor, the School Committee, and the Superintendent are committed to a Horace Mann school building that works well for teaching and learning.

We are all disappointed that the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting fiscal impact has put many larger, long-term capital projects on hold, including the long-term Horace Mann project. With the exception of the Oak Hill Middle School Addition, all school building projects have been deferred.

The short-term work at Horace Mann will continue and is scheduled for completion prior to the start of school this fall.

The modular classrooms, installed quickly this past winter, alleviated some of the space concerns at Horace Mann. In addition, the City Council approved \$150,000 of the original \$500,000 project for the installation of additional sinks on the second floor, as well as other interior improvements, including wall moves to enlarge several classrooms. NPS is also providing funding to reconfigure classrooms. As of now, the remaining \$350,000 for playground and other improvements has been delayed in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) until FY2024. If the City's financial situation improves faster than anticipated, we will see if some of the many important projects pushed back out of the challenging FY21-FY22 timeframe can be moved back up in time.

As you know from discussions this fall, a larger Horace Mann project was not anticipated when students and staff moved into the building in September 2019. Our discussions this fall led us to the conclusion that a larger scope project is necessary given the issues identified. Though the planning process for a larger Horace Mann building project had begun, this project had not yet been incorporated into the school system's long-range facilities plan, or the City's CIP.

The City's CIP is a living/working document that is reviewed and updated bi-annually based on city-wide needs and priorities within the context of all capital needs in the city. The CIP is issued each fall and a Supplemental CIP update is issued each spring during the annual City budget process. This year, due to the COVID-19 impact on City finances, no new projects were added to the Supplemental CIP, except for two projects with outside funding. Typically, new and larger capital items are only introduced in the Fall CIP, while the Supplemental CIP (in May) only adds projects that are likely to be completed in the coming year.



As additional background, the district maintains a long-range facilities plan. The link to it is [here](#). This long-range plan is periodically updated based on facility condition, age, enrollment projections, school feeder pattern, swing space needs, special programs, sequencing and potential funding availability. It serves as a roadmap for the school system as we work in collaboration with the City to recommend school building projects for the CIP.

This fall, we look forward to working with the Mayor and City Council to introduce another line item in the City's Capital Improvement Plan for the larger long-term project for Horace Mann. We welcome ongoing input from the Horace Mann community as we move forward and we will continue to communicate as we know more. As stated, we are committed to completing the short term work at Horace Mann this summer and incorporating the longer range project into the City's CIP this fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liam T. Hurley". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Liam T. Hurley  
Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial and Administrative Officer