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From: **Superintendent Fleishman and Mayor Fuller** <no_reply@newton.k12.ma.us>

Date: Thu, Apr 9, 2020 at 12:32 PM

Subject: Update on Horace Mann Building Improvements

To: <carolyn_campo@newton.k12.ma.us>

Dear Horace Mann Community,

We hope that you are all staying safe and healthy during this time. Though school buildings are currently closed, we continue to move the Horace Mann work forward and want to share an update.

On Monday night, the City Council voted to approve \$150,000 for additional work at Horace Mann, including the installation of sinks on the second floor and some additional interior work. The original request for \$500,000 included installation of additional playground equipment. Due to significant changes in the finances of the City from the pandemic, the playground improvements unfortunately must now be deferred. We hope, in conjunction with the City and Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, that we will be able to address the playground project in the future.

Much like the rest of the country and the Commonwealth, the City of Newton and the Newton Public Schools are preparing for declining revenues and increased costs as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic. Due to these significant economic pressures, we must balance projects important to the Horace Mann community with sustaining critical core services provided by NPS and the City of Newton. Given the financial outlook, we made the difficult but necessary decision to delay the Horace Mann playground improvements at this time. This is one of many projects in Newton that are being deferred.

We remain committed to continue the work at Horace Mann, perhaps on a different timeline. The working group continues to meet with the architect, RDA, to refine the scope of the long term project even as we move forward with the installation of the sinks and interior work.

We appreciate your understanding as we navigate this unprecedented time even when we make difficult decisions like this. We hope you and your family stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

David Fleishman
Superintendent of Schools

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor, City of Newton

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