



## STEM Academy Expansion Plan

To: Members of the School Committee

From: Jeannine M. Durkin, Acting Superintendent

Date: February 2, 2019

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This report provides the steps taken to date to research options for the anticipated new classrooms that will be required at the STEM Academy @ the Rogers School for the 2019-2020 school year. The report also outlines a proposed plan for addressing the need to add classrooms.

Progress to date includes:

- Convened a series of meetings in the fall with members of the Superintendent's Leadership Team, the Coordinator of the Family Resource Center and the Assistant Business Manager for Transportation to review district-wide student enrollment.
- Convened meetings in the fall with City Officials including the Chief Financial Officer, Purchasing Manager, and the Deputy Director of the Department of Planning and Development to ascertain the feasibility of securing viable space in Lowell for the addition of a new middle school including consideration of the following options:
  - Review of available city owned buildings for potential renovation.
  - Discussion of timeline for submission of an RFP for a building that meets the District's needs for a four (4) strand middle school (including whether or not it would be a purchase or lease).
- Verified occupancy for the STEM Academy and communicated with the Fire Chief relative to any other fire code considerations impacting expansion.
- Initiated multiple tours of the STEM Academy to determine potential available space and construction needs to make the space viable classroom/office space.
- Communicated with the Police Chief relative to additional space at the STEM Academy or another school in the vicinity of the STEM Academy to house the Lowell Police Precinct currently located in a room that is slated to be a classroom.
- Communicated with Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI) regarding the possible relocation of their program that is currently housed at the STEM Academy to two (2) separate locations in the Lowell Public Schools (planning ongoing).
- Communicated with the City Manager and her Administrative Team relative to the needed renovations (planning ongoing).
- Convened a meeting with STEM Academy staff on February 5, 2019 to discuss proposed plan and field questions.

- Consulted with the UTL regarding teaching staff who will be relocated within the building and those who will need to travel and be on carts for one year.
- Scheduled a meeting on February 26, 2019 with the STEM Academy School Site Council to discuss the proposed one-year expansion plan.
- Scheduled a meeting with City Officials to develop an RFP for suitable space for a new middle school for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Communicated with City Officials including City Manager and DPW to develop a plan to ensure that the needed renovations are completed by July 2019.
- Scheduled meetings with all Principals on February 7, 2019 to review proposal for 2019-2020 school year.