



## Extreme Temperature Relocation Plan and MSBA Proposals

To: Members of the School Committee

From: Jeannine M. Durkin, Acting Superintendent

Date: January 7, 2019

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This report is provided in response to the following motion made by School Committee Member Gerard Nutter during the September 19, 2018 School Committee Meeting:

*"School Committee/Administration consider creating a Task Force that includes Health Professionals, Principals, School Committee Representatives, City DPW, Mr. Underwood and 1 UTL – LSAA – Clerk Representative to look at creating a policy to deal with temperature issues."*

This report also addresses the motion made by School Committee Members Andre Descoteaux and Gerard Nutter during the August 15, 2018 School Committee Meeting:

*"Request that the Superintendent arrange a joint meeting of the Facilities Subcommittees of the City Council and the School Committee to discuss these priorities and to set in motion the paperwork that will seek assistance for these repairs and improvements."*

There has been much discussion with the various groups listed in the aforementioned motion since the time this motion was brought forth on September 19, 2018. All schools have as part of their Crisis Plans a designated school location for students and staff to be transported to in the case of no heat or another critical emergency (see attached). These procedures have been part of school Crisis Plans for the past two years. We are in the process of developing a plan to create materials similar to those contained in the blizzard/no school bags. These materials would be utilized during the time period that a school is evacuated to a new location to ensure students are academically engaged.

In addition to these procedures, a request was made of all school Principals on Thursday, December 27, 2018 to provide a list of rooms in each school that will be made available to teachers/students in the case that a classroom has extreme temperature concern on a particular day. These lists were completed and forwarded to the Acting Superintendent by Friday, January 4, 2019. Administrators were also asked to share the lists of available rooms with their staff along with an internal school plan for a staff member to notify their building administrators of the need for one of the rooms. Principals were asked to copy the Superintendent on the correspondence sent to staff during the week of January 6, 2019 (sample email attached). In addition, Principals were reminded to inform the Acting Superintendent, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Finance and the

Facilities Director of any new heating concerns that arise to ensure that we keep city officials updated as to our building needs.

In the event that there is an extreme heat concern, the Superintendent will confer with school and city officials in accordance with MGL to determine if the school day needs to be abbreviated or cancelled. In addition to these measures, Principals are also asked to provide locations in each school that afford students and staff optional rooms should the heat be a concern in certain rooms as was stated above. Extra supplies of water are also provided by Aramark Food Service staff in each Cafeteria and Nurse's Office on days when heat temperatures are higher than normal.

We have been working very closely with City Officials to address the heat concerns in our schools. City Officials enlisted Boston Mechanical to conduct an assessment of Lowell High School, and they are working on securing another outside contractor to help with the boiler repairs needed in our schools. There has been progress made to rectify classrooms with heat concerns, and we are looking forward to the results of the assessments that are currently underway to determine next steps.

In addition, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") announced on Friday, January 4, 2019 that they were accepting Statements of Interest ("SOIs") for consideration in calendar year 2019. Submitting an SOI is the critical first step in the MSBA's program for addition/renovation, and repair grants. This process allows us to inform the MSBA about deficiencies that exist in Lowell school facilities and convey how those deficiencies inhibit the delivery of our educational programs.

To that end, the City Manager, Acting Superintendent and key members of their administrative teams have engaged in two planning meetings to date to determine the requests that will be made for repairs to school roofs, boilers, windows and doors aligned with MSBA parameters of 20 year minimum for roofs and boilers and 30 year minimum for windows and doors. We are utilizing the extensive EMG Facilities Conditions Assessment which was conducted by the city along with any newly identified problems with boilers, windows and doors in our schools to determine the submissions. We anticipate submitting a minimum of nine (9) proposals by the closing date as detailed below.

The following provides program detail and closing date information to guide our work going forward:

- The SOI closing date for districts submitting for consideration under the **Accelerated Repair Program (the "ARP")**, which is primarily for the repair and/or replacement of roofs, windows/doors, and/or boilers in an otherwise structurally sound facility, **is Friday, February 15, 2019.**
- The City Council and School Committee will be required to vote on these plans prior to submission.

Although this is a short window to complete the required documents for submission, we believe that it is imperative that we work collaboratively with City Officials to ensure that we submit these proposals prior to the February 15, 2019 closing date.