

Frequently asked questions about the Cabot School project

Who has been involved in the planning and design of the new school?

The building planning has benefited from input from many organizations including the School Building Committee, School Building Committee Working Group, Design Review Committee, Board of Aldermen, School Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Traffic Cluster, Cabot User Groups, and Newton Historical Commission. The building is being designed by DiNisco Design Partnership, who designed the Angier School as well. The design process involves the input of all of the above City of Newton Committees and groups and also includes input from Newton Public Buildings, the Owner's Project Manager, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Newton Public Schools and the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Multiple submissions have been made to the MSBA describing the current design thoughts and the process involved in achieving that current thinking. The documents submitted to the MSBA are available for review on the City of Newton web site for the project.

Link: http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/building/capital_projects/cabot_school/msba.asp

What is the timeline for the new building?

We anticipate moving to the Carr School, the city swing space, in June 2017. The renovation/addition building is projected to be completed by January 2019. Plans were initiated for the new school following the override of 2012.

What is the planned shared usage of the park?

The softball field will be relocated on the park to accommodate a shared parking lot/area and play structure. The parking lot will accommodate 28 cars in the lot and 28 cars in a head in parking lot along Parkview Ave. The total space will represent 2.73% of the current park plan. The parking plan has been sensitively designed to not involve old growth tree removal (scrubs and invasive trees will be removed). Nor will there be any disruptions to the existing Little League field and soccer field.

How many faculty members need to park?

There will be over 110 faculty members, including the CASP staff, that need to park.

Why are there two drop off areas?

The drop off area on Cabot St. will be a designated space for bus/van use. The space may also serve parents traveling to the school on Cabot St. in a separate lane. There will be a parking area for visitors coming to the school for short periods of time (e.g., parents visiting the nurse). The second drop off (cul de sac) is designed to serve a second geographical areas. The two drop off areas will serve to disperse traffic and ensure safety. We also anticipate a drop off zone along East Side Parkway since two walking paths will be added.

What are the advantages to closing Parkview?

The school is designed to allow safe and efficient passage for children:

- at arrival and departure allowing children and parents to walk across the park.
- at recess allowing children to transition to play and field space. With Parkview closed, children could readily access the building to use bathrooms, visit the nurse and get water.
- in afterschool allowing children to use the park and field space.
- in emergencies when the building needs to evacuate to the park.
- during school and community events. With Parkview closed, children could readily access the building to participate in events indoors, use bathrooms and get water.
- during school time to permit use of the park for quiet reading, art activities and science exploration.
- During non-school hours to permit joint use of school spaces and the park (e.g., community summer camps, Newton Community Education classes).