



Watertown Public Schools

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Jean M. Fitzgerald, Ed.D., Superintendent
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To: School Committee
From: Jean M. Fitzgerald
Date: June 10, 2016
RE: Renovation of the Phillips School First Floor

After carefully considering the concerns from parents and community members on the two space expansion and reorganization proposals, my meeting with the Early Steps Integrated Preschool faculty, numerous meetings with the elementary principals and a meeting dedicated to the FAPA concerns at the Cunniff, I am recommending that the School Committee approve the renovation of the Growing Spaces classroom into two Early Steps Integrated Preschool classrooms. I request the vote of the committee to approve this recommendation. If approved at the June 13, 2017 meeting, the rooms will definitely be ready for the Fall.

Information from the Master Planning Study, due to be completed in September, will provide information and direction that will help guide the committee's decisions in moving forward. These decisions may involve renovating the Phillips, adding modular classrooms to various schools or recommending options that we have not yet imagined.

The steps taken in collaboration with the elementary principals and the Coordinator of FAPA to make this plan work are as follows:

Cunniff School:

- The Learning Support programs will be combined in room 151
- Room 110 will house the OT Room
- The current OT Room will become a space for FAPA (art or music) depending on the project and/or class.
Megan Slesinger, FAPA Coordinator and Cunniff Principal, Mena Ciarlone are working together to design a schedule that will minimize the traveling of the art music and teacher.

Hosmer School:

- Early Steps Integrated Preschool class will move to former Growing Places
- School psychologist will move from Hosmer space (room 66) into vacated space in preschool.
- Preschool student break space currently in Hosmer space (room 67) will move into vacated preschool space.
- Two ESL teachers will move from Hosmer space (room 218) to rooms 66 and 67.
- Room 218 will become a fourth grade classroom.

Lowell School:

- Computer room will become a classroom
- Computer stations will be housed in the Library
- A new grade 1 class will be added

Centralize Registration:

- Hire full time registrar
The full time registrar will allow us begin to centralize registration for the elementary schools now.
- Control the enrollment
Chairperson John Portz and Vice-Chairperson Kendra Foley recommend that we control the enrollment at the Cunniff by not accepting new registrations at the Cunniff over the 2016-2017 school year. Students will be assigned to schools where their grade class size is the smallest at time of enrollment.