

Concord-Carlisle High School Building Committee Annual Town Report 2014

In November 2011, voters in Concord and Carlisle overwhelmingly supported the construction of a new high school. At the time of the vote, the CCHS Building Committee was charged with three objectives: a budget of \$92.6mm, a timeline for completion of December 2015, and a set of design features that was reflected in the \$92.6mm budget. Through December 2014, the building is over 85% complete, and the CCHS Building Committee is proud that these three objectives will be met.

With the building 85% complete, the vision of the architect can be clearly seen. As one enters the building, the most striking feature is the amount of natural light that permeates the building. The building design has a clear focus on sustainability, and every building element reflects this feature. Once completed, the Building Project will have one of the highest sustainability ratings in the state of MA. Recently, the Building Project was the beneficiary of a grant from the Concord Education Fund for a building dashboard system, which epitomizes the cutting edge nature of the building and the focus on sustainability. This system is comprised of a 55 inch interactive touch screen display that will be prominently featured in the south side lobby of the building. It will be integrated into all of the building systems and display the resource consumption of the building. The Learning Commons, Auditorium, and Main Gym are all near completion, and are spectacular spaces. Most classrooms are also completed and contain the latest in education technology and are flexible in design. The Building Committee is eagerly awaiting the April 2015 opening of the building and is bursting with pride over its beauty and myriad of unique design features.

From the outset, the CCHS Building Project has been carefully managed financially. As of December 2014, there is \$2.2 million remaining in the budget to complete Phase I of the building project (construction of the new building), and \$6.9 million for Phase II (the demolition of the old building and associated site work). Combining Phase I and Phase II, there are \$9.1 million in construction costs remaining. Against this amount, the construction contingency balance is a healthy \$2.1 million (23%). Construction risk has been well managed, and the only risk remaining is the abatement of the old building. While there has been extensive testing of the old building for hazardous materials and the present budget has an allowance of \$1.6 million to cover the cost of abatement, until the abatement is complete, this risk remains. Cognizant of this risk, the Building Committee has targeted \$2 million in contingency to cover Phase II construction. The Building Project is on target to be completed on budget and it is anticipated that the assumed tax impact to residents, computed in 2011, has not changed.

The first day of school in the building is scheduled for April 28, 2015. Key dates include the Certificate of Occupancy, scheduled for February 12, 2015, and the move from the old building, which will occur over the April school break. With the Certificate of Occupancy expected in mid-February and the opening scheduled for April 28, there is sufficient time for the building to be ready for the opening. Technology installations will begin in January 2015 and furniture deliveries will start in late February. The current goal of the Building Committee is to have all of the technology installed and furniture in place by April 1, 2015. This will allow for sufficient time to address move-related issues with the old building and any other issues that may arise. To ease the move over April break, a logistics expert has been hired and has been working with the teachers and administrative staff over the past three months. Within one week of the building opening, abatement of the old building will begin and be completed by the end of June 2015. As the abatement is completed, the old building will be demolished, and final site work will commence over the summer 2015. The last aspect of the building project, the new parking lot, should be completed by December 2015.

In summary, the CCHS Building Project is on budget, on time, and within the scope that what was presented at Town Meeting. The new building will serve many generations of students, and the CCHS Building Committee is proud of what has been accomplished.