

RECORD OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BROOKLINE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ON **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023** AT 6:00 PM IN THE WALSH SCHOOL COMMITTEE ROOM, 5TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL. STATUTORY NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK.

School Committee Members Present: David Pearlman (Chair), Andy Liu (Vice Chair), Helen Charlupski, Steven Ehrenberg, Suzanne Federspiel, Valerie Frias, Natalia Linos and Mariah Nobrega. *Staff present:* Linus Guillory, Jodi Fortuna, Susan Givens, Liza O'Connell, and Tricia Laham. *Others present:* Laura Cleves, Student Representative; Richard Murphy, Precinct 16 Town Meeting Member; and Aba Taylor, Brookline Community Foundation Executive Director

Mr. Pearlman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

ACTION 23-79

On a motion of Ms. Charlupski, and seconded by Ms. Federspiel, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY (by roll call) with 8 in favor (Mr. Pearlman, Mr. Liu, Ms. Charlupski, Dr. Ehrenberg, Ms. Federspiel, Ms. Frias, Dr. Linos and Ms. Nobrega), 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions, to approve the following consent agenda items:

- i. Past Records: July 10, 2023 School Committee Workshop
- ii. Past Records: August 3, 2023 School Committee Meeting
- iii. Past Records: August 14, 2023 School Committee Meeting
- iv. Student Trip: Lawrence School 7th Grade, Farm School, Athol, MA, November 2023 (Attachment A)

2. STUDENT REPORT

Laura Cleves presented the Student Report. She noted that the first day of school for BHS students was September 5, with 9th graders starting at 8:00am and 10th-12th graders starting at 10:00am. She reported that temperatures in many BHS classrooms during the first few days of school were quite hot, which impacted student comfort and learning. Ms. Cleves discussed two new student policies at BHS: Tardiness and Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs). The Tardy Policy will result in detention after a student has four tardies, and the PED policy prohibits the use of personal electronic devices in classrooms without teacher permission. Members asked Dr. Guillory to gather more information about both policies, to ensure that students are not unnecessarily penalized for tardies which may be beyond their control and to ensure that students who require electronic devices for their learning are permitted to use them in class. Finally, Ms. Cleves highlighted the BHS Club Fair, at which over 60 student-run clubs were represented.

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Guillory opened his report by sharing the highlights of remarks he delivered to staff at school-based meetings on Opening Days (August 30 and 31).

Welcome to the 23-24 Year: Students are our Why!

Our theme for the year blossoms out of the theme adopted during my first two years as superintendent:

Students are our why:

- ensuring a high quality education,*
- fostering a culture of care,*
- removing barriers,*
- and grounding all decisions in equity.*

As we embark on the exciting journey of a new school year, we are filled with a sense of purpose and anticipation. This year holds a special significance as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the historic March on Washington, a monumental event that ignited the flames of change and illuminated the path toward justice and equality. Just as those visionary leaders of the past rallied for a better tomorrow, we too stand united in our pursuit of a brighter future for each and every one of our students. The echoes of the march reverberate through time, reminding us of the power of unity, courage, and unwavering determination. As we reflect on this historic milestone, let us reaffirm our commitment to fostering a learning environment that values diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our classrooms are not just spaces of education; they are sanctuaries of empowerment, where dreams take flight, passions find purpose, voices are amplified and excellence is sought. In this pursuit of excellence, we understand that a high-quality education is not just about the physical space of classrooms. It's what happens inside those classrooms...the magic that educators create that empowers students to think critically, to question boldly, and to create fearlessly. Our classrooms extend beyond physical spaces for learning; they are hubs of innovation, where curiosity is nurtured, and possibilities are limitless. As we know from history, education has the power to dismantle barriers and pave the way for progress. We must ensure that our system, this great District, works for each and every student, each and every day, while also ensuring that this is an environment where our practitioners are able to grow and thrive.

Students are our "why" – they are the heartbeat of our educational community. With each step we take, we build upon the legacy of those who came before, propelling us toward a future where every individual is recognized for their unique strengths and perspectives. Just as the marchers of 60 years ago united under a common goal, we too are united in our dedication to nurturing student growth, sparking students' curiosity, and guiding them on their paths to becoming compassionate global citizens. In the spirit of the march's vision, let's embrace this year with open hearts and open minds. Let's strive for excellence not only in academics but also in empathy. Let's celebrate our differences while finding common ground. Let's remember that every challenge is an opportunity to learn, to adapt, and to emerge stronger.

This year, let us be guided by the lessons of the past and the aspirations of the future. Let us embrace the diversity that enriches our classrooms and hallways, for it is through diverse perspectives that we truly learn, grow, and evolve. Let us be fearless in the face of challenges, for it is through adversity that we develop the resilience that defines great minds. As we stand at the crossroads of history and possibility, let us dare to dream, let us dare to learn, and let us dare to make a difference for each and every individual we encounter. Together, let's march forward with vision, courage, and a steadfast belief in the power of education to shape a world where equality and justice prevail.

Here's to a remarkable school year ahead – one that honors our past, embraces our present, and paves the way for an even brighter future. Let's march on, hand in hand, towards excellence in education and equity for all.

Dr. Guillory continued his report (Attachment B), introducing the district's newest educational leaders, including: *Astrid Allen* (Dean of Students at BHS, Grades 9 and 11), *Dr. Anna Bauer-McTigue* (Director of Special Education for Baker, Lawrence and Ruffin Ridley Schools), *Vanessa Bilello* (Principal of Lawrence School), *Robin Fabiano* (Director of Special Education at BHS), *Dr. Jodi Fortuna* (Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning), *Claire Galloway-Jones* (Senior Director of Educational Equity), *Emma Gardiner* (Vice Principal at Ruffin Ridley School), *Dr. Susan Givens* (Deputy Superintendent for Administration and Finance), *Dr. Jen Martin* (Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator at BHS), *Rebecca McCabe* (Director of Special Education for Heath, Lincoln and Runkle Schools), *Marianne O'Grady* (Vice Principal at Ruffin Ridley School), *Saeed Ola* (Interim Principal of Baker School), *Chad Pelton* (Vice Principal at Runkle School), *Tham Tran* (Director of Strategy and Performance), *Candice Whitmore* (Interim Principal of Ruffin Ridley School) and *Summer Williams* (Dean of Students at BHS, Grades 10 and 12). The new staff addressed the Committee to share a bit about their prior professional experience and they expressed their enthusiasm for the work ahead.

Ms. Laham provided a Student Health Services Update, including a reminder of the updated health protocols – developed in close consultation with the Brookline Department of Public Health – that were shared with families in the annual back-to-school letter. Ms. O'Connell announced that the Office of Student Services will be hosting a meeting for parents and caregivers on September 27 to share the results of the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) that was administered to PSB students in May. The YRBS survey, administered to students in grades 6-12, measures emotional health and well-being, nutrition and physical activity, technology use, use of nicotine, alcohol and other drug use, behaviors related to sexual activity and healthy decision-making, behaviors related to intentional injury, and behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries. Ms. O'Connell provided an update on the summer 2023 Extended School Year program. ESY is designed to ensure that, over the summer, students with IEPs continue to make progress toward meeting their educational goals. The ESY program for BEEP students (ages 3-5) served 37 students; the K-8 ESY program served 212 students; and the ESY program for students from grade 9 to age 22 served 35 students. Members asked about the coordination of transportation for ESY students who participated in an offsite afternoon program (*any transportation requests were handled individually by Ms. O'Connell and accommodated whenever possible*), whether the ESY program is fulfilling the minimum number of days required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (*Ms. Nobrega and Ms. O'Connell will discuss this further*), and what is the process for family notification of eligibility for the ESY program (*this is part of the conversation with parents and caregivers in the IEP meetings*).

Members asked for a report of short-term steps that the Superintendent took to address classroom temperatures during the first week of school, and also what long-term steps are planned to address the issue moving forward. Dr. Guillory reported that he and Dr. Givens have begun planning for the re-use of heat pumps (for example, from the Old Driscoll School that can be repurposed for other school buildings/classrooms that need the most relief). Ms. Charlupski, Chair of the Capital Improvements Subcommittee, noted that this issue was discussed at yesterday's subcommittee meeting. Mr. Simmons, Director of Public Buildings for the Town of Brookline, was in attendance at the subcommittee meeting. He reported that each year, as part of the mini-CIP process, he requests funds to install heat pumps/split systems in our school buildings to provide air conditioning. Some schools don't currently have the electrical capacity to

add new heat pumps or air conditioning units, so funding to update electrical systems is also part of the annual mini-CIP request. Dr. Guillory stated that each school has a heat emergency plan; those plans provide alternative, cooled spaces in each building that classes can use for at least some portions of the school day. Noting that we are likely to have hot classrooms again in June 2024, Dr. Ehrenberg asked that this issue be docketed for a future School Committee meeting to allow the Superintendent an opportunity to share more detailed remediation plans.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Perras, PSB parent, asked for an update on the Elementary World Language program, specifically progress made on new hires, the projected timeline to fully restore the program to all grades, and steps being taken to address EWL teacher concerns. Justin Brown, President of the Brookline Educators Union, spoke in support of the successful school year opening, and praised the hard work by PSB educators that made it possible. He also reiterated the difficult teaching conditions during the first week of school as a result of the heat wave and pledged the support of the BEU to work to resolve this issue.

5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

a. Providing Safe Bike Routes to Schools by Connecting South Brookline to Brookline High School and Beyond

Richard Murphy, Precinct 16 Town Meeting Member, led the presentation on behalf of the Brookline 4 Ever Group (Attachment C). Currently, students in South Brookline have four options to get to the high school: the PSB bus (which, on the morning run, leaves early to avoid congestion, resulting in students arriving at BHS at 7:40am for an 8:20am school day start); public transportation (the MBTA Route 51 bus to the green line, transfer at Reservoir to Brookline Hills; the bus runs sporadically, so this mode of transportation can take up to one hour); the family car (driven by parents to the BHS campus, exacerbating traffic congestion); and bicycling. Bicycling can be faster (approximately 22-minute trip) and provides students with full flexibility in terms of arrival and departure times. Mr. Murphy described the current roadways and bike routes from South Brookline to the high school, and reported that one of the priority goals of the Brookline 4 Ever Group and the Town's Bicycle Advisory Committee is to establish protected bicycle lanes that will reduce congestion, provide safer streets, and give students a safe and flexible mode of transportation to school. Joining Mr. Murphy for the presentation were BHS students Maya Huling and Audrey Chang; they described their experiences bicycling to BHS from South Brookline. Mr. Murphy and other members of the Bicycle Advisory Committee will be presenting their report to the Safe Routes to School Committee, the Town Transportation Board, and the DPW Engineering Department to advocate for a more robust bike lane infrastructure. Mr. Murphy asked for PSB and School Committee support by encouraging staff and students to bike to school, joining the advocacy for improved bike lane infrastructure, and assisting with communications to the PSB community about the importance of this issue. Members thanked Mr. Murphy for his informative presentation and expressed their interest in supporting this important work.

b. Presentation of the Brookline Community Foundation's "Understanding Brookline: Economic Inequality in Brookline" Report

Aba Taylor, Executive Director of the Brookline Community Foundation (BCF), joined the meeting to provide an overview of the BCF's work and to present the findings of the BCF's study

of income inequality in Brookline (Attachment D). The BCF was founded in 1905 as the Brookline Friendly Society; in 1999 the Brookline Friendly Society renamed itself the Brookline Community Fund, and in 2005 it was renamed the Brookline Community Foundation. The areas of focus for BCF's work are philanthropic leadership, partnering with the community, investing in Brookline, and research and insights. Ms. Taylor highlighted the work of BCF Youth Fund Grants that are made to ensure equal access to opportunities for all youth in Brookline. Since 1999, the Brookline Youth Fund has awarded over \$1 million in grants to 47 different local organizations. BCF investments in educational programming since 2018 total over \$1.3 million through 90 grants to 35 local partners, including the PSB, the Brookline Teen Center, and the Brookline Asian American Family Network. The BCF also manages a Scholarship Fund for Brookline High School, raising over \$1.4 million since 2016 to award to BHS students. Ms. Taylor described some of the research that is part of the 2023 Economic Inequality in Brookline report, including the finding that 25% of Brookline residents struggle to make ends meet. Brookline's population is growing and becoming more diverse (30% of Brookline's residents identify as Black, Asian, Latinx, or multiracial; and 33% of residents above the age of 5 speak a language other than English at home). At least 41% of Brookline's households earn incomes below the living wage in Norfolk County, and 10.68% of adults over the age of 65 and 11.28% of women live in poverty. While poverty rates are falling, significant economic needs persist and the rising cost of essentials make it harder to build financial security. The BCF will soon be launching a reliable, accurate, community database to readily and easily share information with stakeholders across town. This open database will include 50 indicators covering health, economics, education, resources, and equity, and will "put the power of real-time community data in everyone's hands". Members thanked Ms. Taylor for this illuminating presentation, as well as for the vital contributions that the BCF makes to the residents of Brookline.

6. SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTIONS

a. Discussion and Possible Vote on FY 2024 Substitute Teacher and Substitute Nurse Pay Rates

Dr. Givens presented a memo about substitute teacher and substitute nurse pay rates (Attachment E), including a proposal to increase the per diem rate for both. Dr. Givens noted that the district is finding it difficult to fill substitute openings. In order to remain competitive, and fill our substitute openings with the best possible candidates, a higher per diem rate is proposed. Staff recommend that the per diem rate for substitute teachers be raised from \$112 to \$135, and the per diem rate for nurses be raised from \$175 to \$200, effective September 1, 2023. Dr. Givens assured members that the school budget will be able to absorb the increased costs associated with these new per diem rates.

ACTION 23-80

On a motion of Mr. Pearlman, and seconded by Dr. Liu, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, by roll call, with 7 in favor (Mr. Pearlman, Dr. Liu, Ms. Charlupski, Dr. Ehrenberg, Ms. Federspiel, Ms. Frias, and Dr. Linos), 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions, to increase the per diem rate for substitute teachers to \$135 and increase the per diem rate for substitute nurses to \$200, retroactive to September 1, 2023.

b. Discussion and Possible Vote on Capital Improvements Subcommittee's Recommended Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Request

Ms. Charlupski and Dr. Givens presented the proposed PSB Capital Improvements Program request (Attachment F). The Capital Improvements Subcommittee met on September 12, 2023. Working collaboratively with the Town Public Buildings Division, the subcommittee and staff have prepared and recommend this CIP request for consideration and approval by the full School Committee. The CIP request is due to the Town Administrator's office on September 15. The line-by-line description of the request is as follows:

Classroom Capacity (leases): requesting \$640,332 in FY25 (a reduction of \$1,386,650 from FY24 due to the termination of the 2 Clark Road lease). The leases BEEP@Putterham (Temple Emeth) and BEEP@Beacon (Temple Ohabei) remain.

Failing Furniture and Fixtures Replacement: in FY25 we are requesting \$200,000, of which \$125,000 is for replacement of tables in the BHS cafeteria.

IEP Accommodations – School Modifications: the FY25 request is \$50,000; this is a new request for improvements that fall outside of the scope of Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations.

Deferred Maintenance (also referred to as the mini-CIP): request of \$2,120,675 in FY25 for building repairs that can't be completed in the annual maintenance of schools due to budget limitations. In FY25, the mini-CIP work will focus on the 2nd and 3rd floors of Lincoln School, updates to Baldwin (to accommodate staff moving out of 2 Clark Road), electrical upgrades to Heath School (needed for future HVAC improvements), repairs to the Runkle auditorium, and flooring/stair work at Lawrence and Baker.

Long-Term Capital Plan: The last independent long-term capital plan for the PSB was completed in February 2009. FY25 request amount is \$250,000.

The Committee also discussed the DPW's CIP requests for improvements to school playgrounds, or to town playgrounds adjacent to our school buildings, and reviewed the Building Department's CIP request that covers repairs and improvements in our school buildings. Future year PSB CIP requests include a feasibility study for a possible expansion of the Lawrence Cafeteria, and a feasibility study for Baker School (renovation/construction/possible expansion). The Committee was particularly interested in CIP funding that will enable as many classrooms as possible to be air conditioned as quickly as possible.

ACTION 23-81

On a motion of Ms. Charlupski, and seconded by Ms. Federspiel, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, by roll call, with 7 in favor (Mr. Pearlman, Dr. Liu, Ms. Charlupski, Dr. Ehrenberg, Ms. Federspiel, Ms. Frias, and Dr. Linos), 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions, to approve the Public Schools of Brookline FY25 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) request in the amount of \$3,261,007.

Ms. Charlupski and Dr. Givens acknowledged the tremendous work of Ms. Nobrega in the preparation of this CIP request. On a related note, the School Committee has invited Charlie Simmons, Director of Public Buildings, to the October 12 meeting to share highlights of some of the fantastic mini-CIP funded work completed over the summer in our schools. Finally, staff will work with Mr. Simmons to create a summary of PSB classrooms that need air conditioning and a proposed timeline to make those improvements.

c. Discussion and Possible Vote on District Mission, Vision and Goals

Mr. Pearlman noted that Dr. Ehrenberg was the primary drafter of this impressive document, so he asked Dr. Ehrenberg to lead the discussion. Dr. Ehrenberg reminded members that this document was first reviewed and discussed at the summer workshop. Since that time, a small subgroup has continued to make edits and refine the language. Goal 6, *Ethic of Wellness*, is new, so he asked members to review it this evening and offer feedback. Following the discussion, the Committee moved to approve the document.

ACTION 23-82

On a motion of Dr. Ehrenberg, and seconded by Dr. Liu, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, by roll call, with 7 in favor (Mr. Pearlman, Dr. Liu, Ms. Charlupski, Dr. Ehrenberg, Ms. Federspiel, Ms. Frias, and Dr. Linos), 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions, to adopt the revised District Mission, Vision and Goals, as outlined in the attached document (Attachment G).

Members thanked Dr. Ehrenberg for shepherding this document through to completion. The Committee looks forward to seeing the Mission, Vision and Goals reflected in the implementation of the District Strategic Plan.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

a. Capital Improvements

i. Discussion and Possible Vote to Issue Support Letter for DPW's Davis Path Footbridge Replacement Project Grant Application

Ms. Charlupski reported that Bill Smith, DPW Project Manager and Architect, attended the subcommittee's meeting yesterday. He provided an overview of the proposed Davis Path Footbridge replacement that is planned to span the MBTA train tracks from Boylston Street (near the Old Lincoln School, adjacent to Boylston Playground) to White Place (near Emerson Playground). DPW asked for a letter of support from the School Committee to accompany their grant application. The subcommittee voted unanimously to recommend that the School Committee issue such a letter of support.

ACTION 23-83

On a motion of Ms. Charlupski, and seconded by Ms. Federspiel, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, by roll call, with 7 in favor (Mr. Pearlman, Dr. Liu, Ms. Charlupski, Dr. Ehrenberg, Ms. Federspiel, Ms. Frias, and Dr. Linos), 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions, to issue a letter of support for the Town of Brookline's Davis Path Footbridge Replacement Project to accompany their application for a U.S. Department of Transportation "Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Construction Grant". (Attachment H)

Ms. Charlupski reported that at last night's Building Commission meeting there was a discussion of the Pierce School Project. The Commission is moving toward issuing an early bid package for the demolition of the existing school. This will allow the architect to complete the drawings with a more complete understanding of the actual site conditions. A second bid package will then cover the building of the new school. Because of a delay in the preparation of the contract documents, the timeline for moving students out of the existing building has been moved

back to summer 2024. This means that students and staff will not have to move out during the school year, a change strongly supported by the school leadership. The project timeline still calls for the new building to be ready for occupancy in September 2027, though that date might change. A meeting of the Pierce School Building Committee is scheduled for September 19, and Ms. Charlupski and Dr. Liu will report any new information at the next School Committee meeting.

b. Curriculum

Ms. Federspiel announced that the Curriculum Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, September 19 at a new time: 3:00pm to 4:30pm.

c. Additional Liaisons and Updates

Dr. Ehrenberg announced that the first meeting of the Climate and Sustainability Task Force was held on August 29. The Task Force is made up of over 20 members who have been assigned to four work groups (Education and Engagement; Energy, Buildings and Outdoor Spaces; Food Services and Waste; Transportation). He will be following up with the Task Force soon to guide them in the next steps. He also recently met with the representatives of the Zero Emissions Advisory Board and Climate Action Brookline to bring them up-to-speed on the Task Force creation and goals.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pearlman announced that Ms. Nancy Rhei Gorer resigned from the School Committee, effective on August 31, 2023. The Committee expressed their gratitude to Ms. Gorer for her service to the school district. The Committee will be convening a joint meeting with the Select Board to select a new member who will serve until the end of Ms. Gorer's term (May 2024). An announcement with details for interested applicants, who must be registered voters in Brookline, will be forthcoming.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Betsy Fitzpatrick, Executive Assistant
Brookline School Committee



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS 02445

PHONE: 617-730-2432
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LINUS J. GUILLORY JR., PhD
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

JODI L. FORTUNA, Ed.D
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Lawrence School - Farm School Field Trip

Overnight, In-State Field Trip Application

Athol, MA

Group 1: November 1st, 2023 - November 2nd, 2023

Group 2: November 2nd, 2023 - November 3rd, 2023

For review and consideration by the
Brookline School Committee

Approval Route:	Approved	Denied	*Returned
Copies to:			
TEACHING & LEARNING	<u>JLF</u>	_____	_____
SUPERINTENDENT	_____	_____	_____
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	_____	_____	_____
MEETING DATE	_____	_____	_____
*REASON RETURNED:	_____	_____	_____

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE

APPLICATION FOR ALL ~~IN-STATE~~ OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS

TRIP LOGISTICS:

1. Name of Field Trip: **Farm School Field Trip**
2. Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval: **Christine Moodie**
3. School: **Lawrence School** Grade Level: **7**
4. Have you reviewed the *School Committee Policy I 3 a. for School Sponsored Field Trips*? **YES**
5. Have you reviewed the document "*Administrative Procedures for School Sponsored Field Trips*"? **YES**
6. Have you reviewed the document "*Field Trip Planning Guide*"? **YES**

*These documents can be found in the Staff Portal of the district website (www.brookline.k12.ma.us)
in the Office of Teaching and Learning link.*

7. What is your destination? **The Farm School 488 Moore Hill Rd, Athol, MA 01331**
8. What is the date and time you are leaving school? **Wednesday November 1st at 8am for Group 1 and Thursday November 2nd for Group 2.**
9. What is the date and time you are returning to school? **Thursday November 2nd at 1pm for Group 1 and Friday November 3rd at 1pm for Group 2.**
10. Do the dates of the trip conflict with any religious holidays or observances? **PD Day on November 3rd**
11. How many days will students miss from school? **students attend in groups, Group 1 will miss two days of school, Group 2 will only miss one day of school (due to the PD day)**
12. How are students being transported (school bus, chartered bus, plane, rail, etc)? **bus**

*If students are traveling via bus, please complete the
Requirements for Field Trip Transportation via Bus form.*

13. How many students will be participating in the field trip? **roughly 47, depending on how many are enrolled in 7th grade**
14. What members of the student body are eligible for the trip? **7th grade**
15. How are students selected to participate in this field trip? **all of 7th grade**
16. Where will students be staying? **The Farm School 488 Moore Hill Rd, Athol, MA 01331**
17. What are the names and cell phone numbers of the primary staff chaperones on the trip?
Christine Moodie [REDACTED]
18. Other than those listed in #16 above, what are the names and roles (teacher, parent, etc) of other adult chaperones who will be on the trip?
Charles Deily (7/8 math teacher)
Hannah Bjornson (7/8 ELA teacher)
Kate Hollander (7/8 social studies teacher)
Lara Miller (7th ELA and social studies teacher)

EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

19. What is the purpose of the trip and how does it relate to Brookline's Learning Expectations (K-8) or BHS Course Syllabi? **At the Farm School, students will study the relationship between organisms in the farm ecosystem. Students will learn about the importance of composting, crop rotation, soil nutrients, and land stewardship. Additionally, this will serve as a SEL opportunity as students will be tasked with chores that require them to work collaboratively.**
20. Describe activities planned before the trip to prepare students: **Students will be studying how Earth's surface has changed over long periods of time. They will be explore how matter cycles through the**

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE

nonliving components of an ecosystem and use data and models to explain how Earth's surface has changed in the past, and predict how and where it might change in the future.

21. Describe activities planned after the trip for students to wrap-up/reflect: **Students will conduct field studies of the soil in various places around Lawrence to see what makes "good" soil. Students will continue to study soil, essential plant nutrients, ecosystem relationships, and will eventually work collaboratively to create sustainable bottle ecosystems, incorporating how matter cycles through both the living and nonliving components of an ecosystem.**

ACCESSIBILITY AND STUDENT SAFETY

22. To what extent does the field trip group reflect the diversity of the school population? What efforts will be undertaken to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, the participants in this field trip reflect the diversity of the school population? **All 7th graders are able to participate. All students will be working together to ensure that the farm chores are completed before making dinner and dining as a group. The students will play collaboratively as well as work collaboratively.**

23. What measures are planned to ensure student safety on the trip, including chaperone coverage, student behavior contracts, etc. **Students will have a chaperone with their groups at all times and follow all school rules while on the trip.**

24. What is the name and location of the medical facility closest to your destination? **Athol Hospital, 2033 Main St, Athol, MA 01331**

25. Will students be swimming? (please note: if swimming is planned, parents must give explicit written permission for their child to swim; students who do not have this express written permission will not be allowed to swim) **NO, students will not be swimming.**

FUNDING

26. What is the total cost of the trip? Please detail the major components of the trip below and provide a total. *(add/edit headings as necessary)*

Lodging	\$5,029
Travel	bus (need quote from town-based on past year's rate 2,400- 2,900)
Meals	N/A
Admissions/Tickets	N/A
TOTAL:	7,429- 7,929

27. How will the field trip be funded?

The Lawrence PTO has budgeted \$5500 for the 2023 Farm School trip. The remaining money will be paid by each family.

28. What accommodations are made for students who cannot afford the expenses of this trip? Are partial and/or full scholarships available? **Students who cannot afford to attend will be covered in full by the Lawrence PTO.**

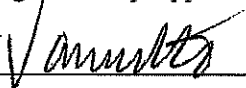
29. If fundraisers are planned to help lower the cost of the trip for all students, please describe those plans here: **None**

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*If you need any assistance as you complete this application,
please contact the Office of Teaching and Learning at 617-730-2432.*

Signatures:

Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval: Christine Moodie Date: 8/28/23

Principal:  Date: 9/7/2023



2023-24 School Year Updates

September 13, 2023



Agenda

- Opening Days
- Leadership Updates
- Health Protocols
- YRBS Parent/Guardian Forum
- ESY



Summer Excerpts



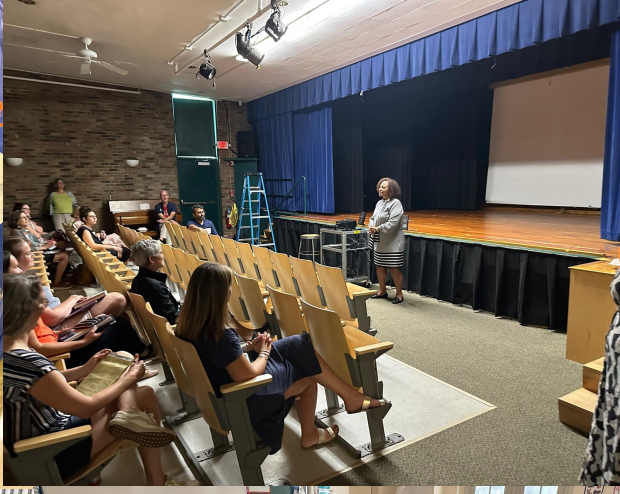
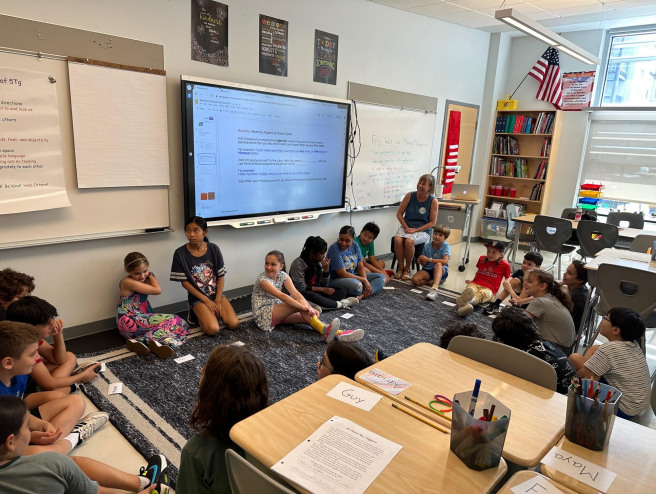
THEHILL
**March on
Washington turns
60 with miles to go**





August Leadership





Opening Days

Staffing Changes



Astrid Allen



BHS Dean of Students, Grades 9 and 11

- Served as Associate Dean of Students (Class of 2023) for the past two years; Has been involved with the BHS faculty since 2007, primarily teaching Spanish.
- Ms. Allen has also served as the program liaison for the BHS Innovation Fund since 2015 and launched other program initiatives, such as the “Day of Racial Reform & Solidarity.”

Dr. Anna Bauer-McTigue



Director of Special Education, Baker, Lawrence, Ruffin Ridley

- Formerly the Director of Special Education at the Bridge Boston Charter School.
- Since 2009, Dr. Bauer-McTigue oversaw and developed several strategic plans and special education initiatives - including consultation with DESE and the Michigan Department of Education.

Vanessa Bilello



Principal, Lawrence School

- Was Principal of Hopkins Elementary School in Hopkinton, MA for the past seven years, earning the Winslow Coyne Reitnouer Excellence in Education Award for Exemplary Performance in U.S. School in 2019.
- Ms. Bilello first taught at PSB as an Assistant Teacher and Special Education Intern for Lawrence and Lincoln Schools while pursuing her M.Ed. at Boston College.

Robin Fabiano



Director of Special Education, BHS

- Previously served as Head of Student Services for Westwood Public Schools since 2012. Ms. Fabiano was also the Co-Director of Elementary Student Services at Newton Public Schools, in Newton, MA.
- She also serves as an adjunct professor at Lesley University and co-hosts a podcast titled *A Special Education Teacher, Administrator and Lawyer walk into a bar.*

Dr. Jodi Fortuna



Deputy of Teaching and Learning

- Formerly served Boston Public Schools as Academic Response Team Director, Academic Superintendent as well as other roles. Also served as Superintendent of Hudson Public Schools in Hudson, MA from 2014 to 2017.
- Dr. Fortuna brings experience in curriculum development, academic performance, coaching and mentoring.

Claire Galloway-Jones



Senior Director of Educational Equity

- Previously served as the Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging with Milton Public Schools in Milton, MA.
- Prior to Milton, Ms. Galloway-Jones was the METCO program director with Sharon and Bedford schools. Claire has a special connection to Brookline through her older sister who was also one of the first students to join the METCO program when it launched in 1966; Claire was also a METCO student, travelling by bus from Mattapan to attend Lincoln Public Schools.

Emma Gardiner



Vice Principal, Ruffin Ridley School

- Most recently served as the Assistant principal at Chelsea High School
- Has 20+ years of teaching experience including special education, wellness and as a track and field coach.

Dr. Susan Givens



Deputy of Administration and Finance

- Previously served as the Director of Strategic Initiatives for the LABBB Educational Collaborative and as Superintendent for Newmarket School District in Newmarket, NH.
- Dr. Givens brings over 30 years of educational administration experience to her new role. She also currently serves as a Undergraduate Applicant Interviewer for the University of Pennsylvania.

Jen Martin



Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, Grades 9-12

- Has previously served at BHS in a variety of roles since 2005, including Summer School director, program coordinator for advisory, teaching mentor, and teacher of Ancient, Modern, and World History.
- Dr. Martin is currently working to update the African-American History curriculum for Primary Source, a Professional Development organization based in MA.

Rebecca McCabe



Director of Special Education, Heath, Lincoln, and Runkle

- Previously served as the Early Childhood Coordinator at Dedham Public Schools in Dedham, MA, and as the Out of District Coordinator at Burlington Public Schools in Burlington, MA.
- Has 12 years of of special education classroom teaching experience, including certification as an Orton-Gillingham practitioner for the treatment of dyslexia.

Marianne O'Grady



Vice Principal, Ruffin Ridley School

- Previously served as the Director of the Lower School at the Acera School in Winchester.
- Has 11 years of leadership experience serving non-profit organizations both domestically and abroad.

Saeed Ola



Interim Principal, Baker School

- Since 2015, Mr. Ola served as Vice Principal at the Ruffin Ridley School since 2015. He has also taught middle school math and social studies at Runkle and served as a METCO aide.
- In 2018, Mr. Ola helped led the FRR School renaming process, including the vetting and support of student selections within the nominations committee.

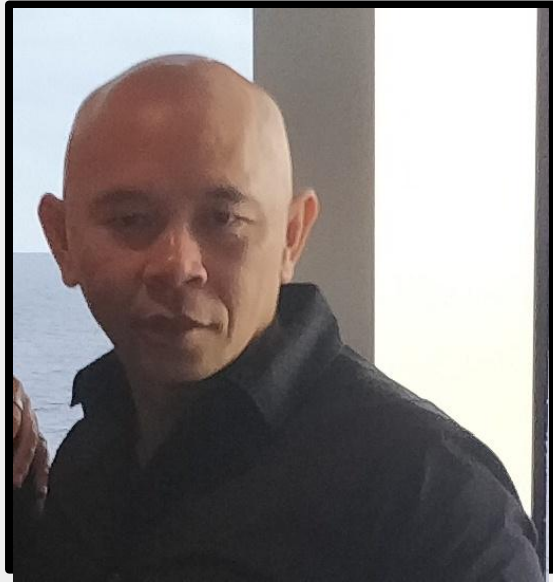
Chad Pelton



Vice Principal, Runkle School

- Has previously served as the middle school science teacher at Runkle.
- In 2011, Mr. Pelton was one of six teachers who managed to explore the Norwegian Arctic as a Grosvenor Teaching Fellow.

Tham Tran



Director of OSP, Central Office

- Joined PSB in October of 2022, from Lowell Public Schools where he served as a systems database administrator and assistant business officer.
- He holds a Bachelors in Finance and enjoys camping, hiking and exploring the great outdoors.

Candice Whitmore



Interim Principal, Ruffin Ridley School

- Previously served as principal for Hale Elementary School in Boston, MA and also as assistant principal in Watertown Public Schools.
- Has six years of administrative experience and nine years of teaching elementary grades in Nashville, TN, Baton Rouge, LA, and Madison, WI. During her tenure at Watertown, Ms. Whitmore was a member of the district's equity team and launched their Parents of Color Advisory Council.

Summer Williams



BHS Dean of Students, Grades 10 and 12

- Served as a interim Dean of Students for the past two years; Has been involved with the BHS faculty since 2004 teaching drama and other performing arts.
- Co-founded the Boston's Company One Theatre in 1998 and most recently directed a performance of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at Boston College in Spring 2022.

The school health team is excited to be back at school welcoming new and returning families. Updated health protocols were shared in our back to school letter and are available on our [PSB Health Services Website](#).

PSB health services continues to have a strong partnership with the Brookline Department of Public Health. We have collaborated on current Health and Covid protocols, which include isolation for 5 days if testing positive for Covid-19; and adhering to the mitigation strategies of staying home when ill, good handwashing, testing when symptomatic, utilizing our air filters and staying up to date on flu and Covid vaccines.

Health Services Updates

Flu Clinics

The Health Department is offering several flu clinics, at which our PSB nurses will provide support as needed. The clinics are available to Brookline residents, students and staff. **Registration is required.**

Dates:

- Wednesday, October 4th, 4:30-6:30 pm Baker School
- Sunday, October 15th 9:00 am-12:00 pm BHS
Schluntz gym
- Tuesday, October 17th, 4:30-6:30 pm at FRR

COVID-19 vaccine clinics will be offered when the new vaccine becomes available.



YRBS Parent and Guardian Forum

- Please join us on September 27th from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m at BHS to learn more about the results of the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).
- The YRBS was administered in May to Brookline students in grades 6 to 12 and measures:
 - Emotional health and well-being
 - Nutrition and physical activity
 - Technology use
 - Use of nicotine, alcohol, and other drug use
 - Behaviors related to sexual activity and healthy decision-making
 - Behaviors related to intentional injury
 - Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries



YRBS Parent and Guardian Forum

September 27, 2023

7-8:30PM

Brookline High School

During the event,

- An introduction will be provided by Liza O'Connell, Interim Deputy of Student Services
- Dr. Matt DuBois, Senior Director of Clinical Services and Social Emotional Learning, will provide a summary of YRBS Results.
- Attendees will have an opportunity to ask panelists questions. The panel will include:
 - Dr. Erik Von Hahn, Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician, Tufts Medical Center
 - Rachael Hennessey-Crowell, LICSW, MSW, MBA, Clinical Director of Outpatient Treatment, Brookline Center
 - Sigalle Reiss, MPH, RS/REHS, Director, Public Health & Human Services
 - The Brookline Police Department
 - Tricia Laham, MEd, RN, BSN, Coordinator of School Health Services
 - Carlyn Z. Uyenoyama, K to 12 Coordinator for Wellness Education

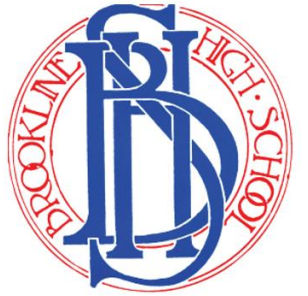
Special Education: Extended School Year (ESY)

BEEP (Ages 3-5): <u>37 Students</u> ESY Coordinator: Erin Hurney	<p>To ensure that children with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), all IEP teams, including parents & guardians, consider whether or not a child with special needs requires extended school year (ESY) services.</p> <p>With the purpose of minimizing substantial regression, specialized services provided help each child maintain the progress made towards IEP goals.</p>
K-8: <u>212 Students</u> ESY Coordinator: Lindsay Strauss	<p>Special education services may include: specific skill remediation, behavioral and/or therapeutic support, speech & language, occupational & physical therapy, orientation & mobility, adaptive community engagement, etc.</p>
9-Age 22: <u>35 Students</u> ESY Coordinator: Liza Casal	<p>Non-academic activities may include: music therapy, outdoor activities, swimming, therapeutic animal events</p> <p>Locations: BEEP, Ruffin Ridley School, Brookline High School (Greenough)</p> <p>Dates: 4 weeks (7/11- 8/4/22); 5 weeks (7/11- 8/11/22)</p>



The Brookline Connection

Connecting South Brookline to BHS & Beyond



Presented by the Brookline 4 Ever Group



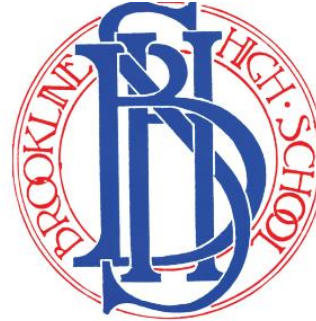
How we get to School - Walk, Ride or Drive & Beyond

- **PSB Baker/Heath to BHS School Bus** - a welcome addition to the available options and having it be at no cost as of this year is a great improvement. It is well used although more by **freshmen and some sophomores**, with usage dropping off at older grades. To get to BHS on time and avoid congestion it must run very early — picking up kids near **Baker at 7:20** and usually delivering them to BHS at 7:40, for an **8:20 start to school**. This requires Baker area kids to wake up early, which is counter to the typical teenager **sleep** requirements. The afternoon buses also **depart at 3 and 4pm**, which gives some flexibility but isn't late enough to accommodate most sports, requiring student athletes to travel home via other means.
- **Public transportation** - the option that provides the **greatest flexibility** in schedule in terms of students being able to travel home late. The MBTA 51 bus to the Reservoir Green Line stop and then to BHS is a reasonably fast route except that the 51 bus runs **only every 40 minutes**. When the bus schedules fits with the student's schedule this is a good option but otherwise can lead to long waits and can **take over an hour to get from BHS to SB**.
- **The Family Car** - large number of students travel by family car, often with just **one parent and one student** rather than a carpool, leading to **congestion** on Warren St. where it meets Boylston and on Sumner at the high school.
- **Bicycling** – Is faster (**22 mins**) than these other options and provides students with **full flexibility** in terms of timing. This is particularly **helpful after school** for students participating in clubs, sports, and other activities. Many **sports** also practice at sites away from BHS campus (e.g., Larz Andersen, Downes Field, Skyline) and cycling provides a versatile means of getting to and from those practices

South Brookline Connections with Safe Routes to BHS

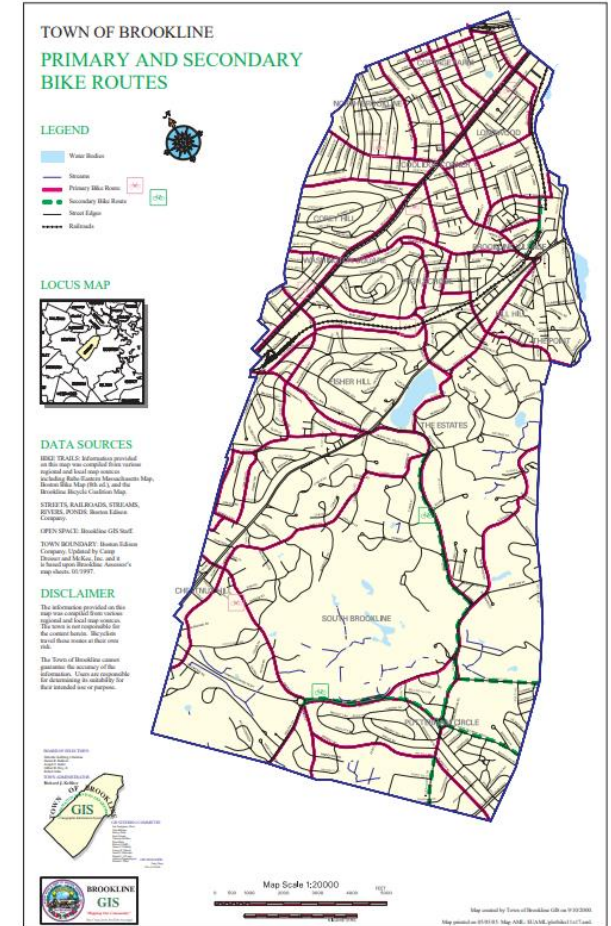
Currently in South Brookline

- Roadways were designed to move as many vehicles as possible thru SB
- GPS has increased vehicle volume in the past 10-15 years.
- Residents deal with speeders, aggressive drivers and drivers cutting through their neighborhoods
- Limited bike lanes – which none are Protected Bike Lanes
- Dangerous pedestrian cross walks with multi vehicle lanes
- Opportunities to work with DCR on making their roadways safer



Our Goals

- **Establish the Best Protected Safe Bicycle Lane** routes to connect South Brookline to BHS & beyond in 2024.
- **BHS Students** would have options with different modes of transportation
- **Congestion around BHS** – reduce the number of vehicles driving students to School
- **Safer South Brookline Streets** - by controlling the flow of traffic for safety for residents and all vehicles (25MPH)
- **Improved Cross Walks** - increase safety for pedestrians
- **Increase bicycling among women** - providing protected safe bike lanes
- **Connections Beyond BHS** to Sporting Events, Parks, Shopping, Traveling to meet Friends

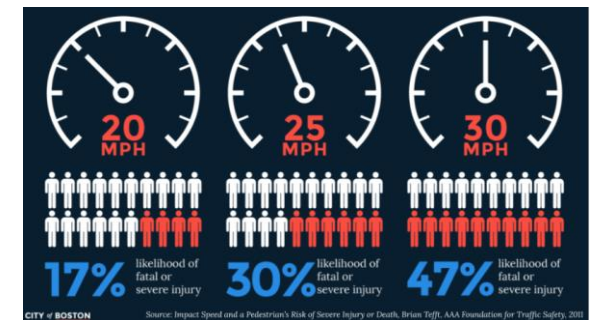


Making our Roadways Safer

- Town of Brookline is planning 25 MPH on all these roadways. (TM voted 176 – 18)
- For reported car accidents. From 2014 to 2019 (pre Covid), the Town of Brookline had approximately 7500 reported car accidents town wide. During the same time frame this Bike Route had 575 reported car accidents which accounted for 7.6% of all car accidents in the Town.
- Lane reduction reduces crashes by 47% in suburbs areas like South Brookline
- Reducing 4 lanes of traffic to 2 lanes and creating a center turn lane, results in less head on traffic and the potential for broadside accidents. By having a center turn lane minimizes any traffic flow impact while adding safer conditions.
- Narrower vehicle travel lanes does cause drivers to slow down by 7-10 miles per hour.
- Opportunity to improve cross walk locations and add Protected Bicycle Lanes for our students and others – less head on traffic
- 74% of pedestrian & bicycle fatalities occurred at intersections. Intersection of Newton & Clyde St., Putterham Rotary and Lee & Dudley St.

MOST IMPORTANT – We have BHS students who ride this route today! - Their words to describe why they ride to BHS

- 1) **Enjoyment** of the ride
- 2) **Exercise**
- 3) **Fastest** way to BHS vs. MBTA bus line (approx. 22-minute ride)
- 4) **Control** of their schedule (flexibility)
- 5) **Independent** – not have to rely on my parents
- 6) **Affordability** - The only way of getting around we can afford
- 7) **Safety** vs. riding the MBTA bus line (I feel safer on my bike vs. dealing with strangers on the MBTA)
- 8) **Parents reporting**, my children ride their bikes to Baker School now and would like to ride to BHS but need a safe route
- 9) **Better Sleep** for our students, by saving time and flexible schedule allow students to get the extra sleep they need.



PeopleForBikes The Bike to School National Challenge



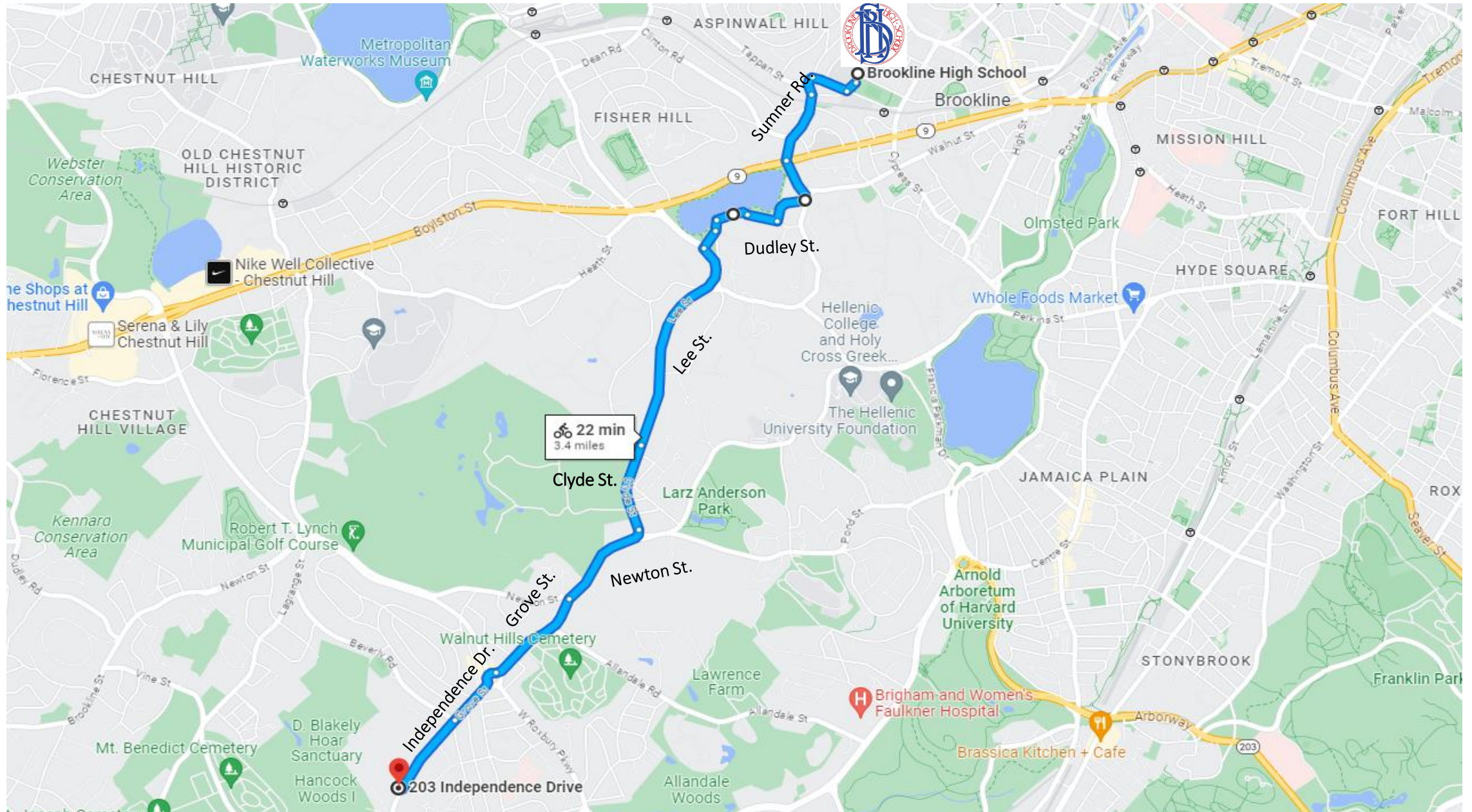
- PeopleForBikes Org.- Students across the country are heading back to the classroom
- Goal is to use a little Pedal Power!
- Pedal to Class one day each week in September for a total of 8 rides to earn limited edition Bike to School Sticker
- If not a student, Commuting to work, picking up lunch or just running an errand
- Celebrate the Bike To School Spirit by replacing a car trip with the joy of a bike ride.
- Utilizing their App to earn more rewards

Brookline's own Challenge to BHS



- Brookline's own Bike to the High School Challenge
- Sponsored by Brookline School Teachers, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and Bike Brookline
- Starting point from Baker, Health, Driscoll, Lawrence, Runkle Pierce and FRR to Brookline High School
- The Rides are led by teachers, parents & volunteers
- Dozens of young adults participate in the event
- Encourage more biking to schools vs. other vehicles

Proposed South Brookline Main Artery Bike Route to BHS & Beyond



Types of Bike Lane designs

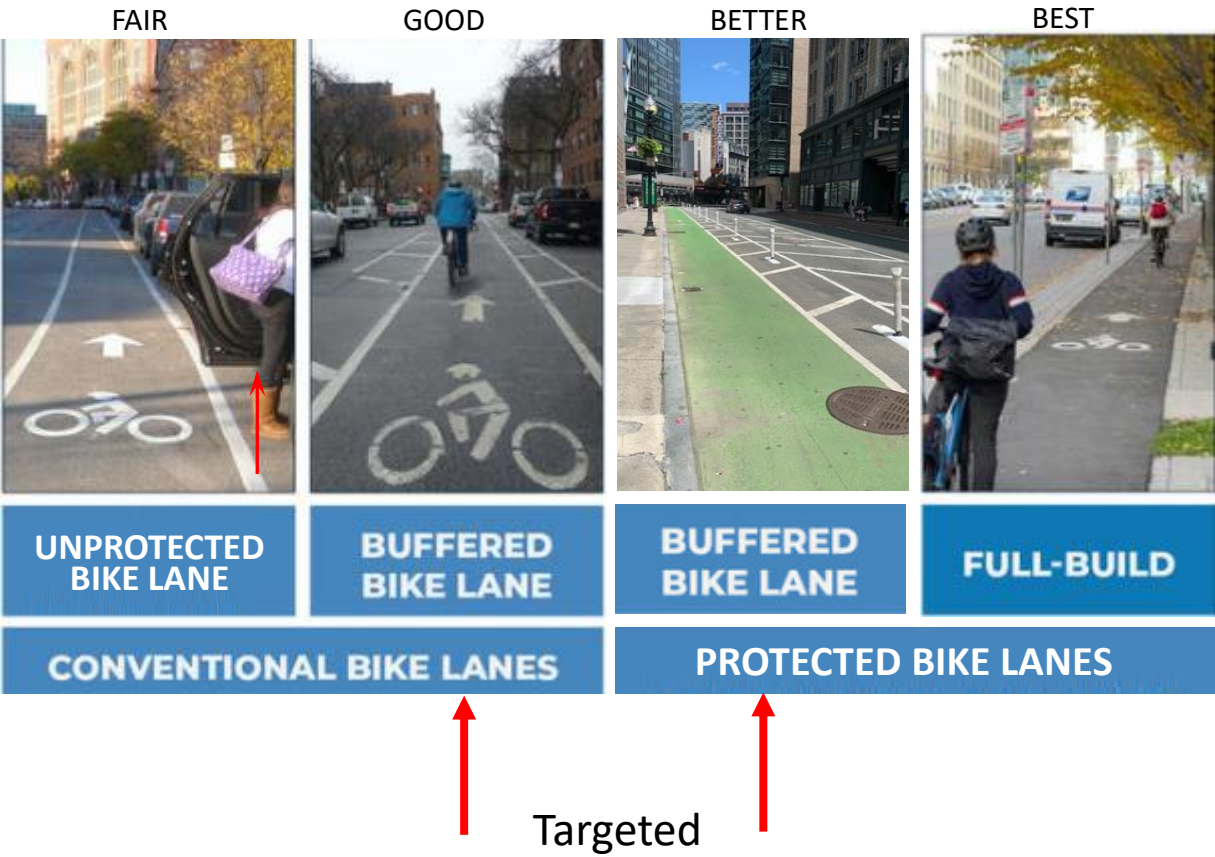
Sharrow



Contra Flow



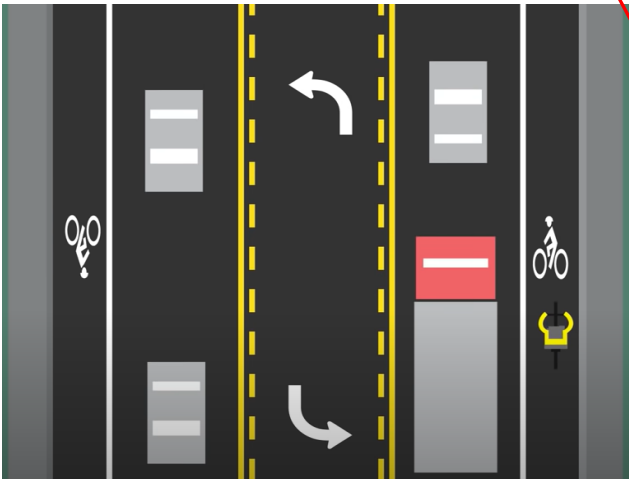
Separated Bike Lane



Overview South Brookline Connections with Safe Routes to BHS

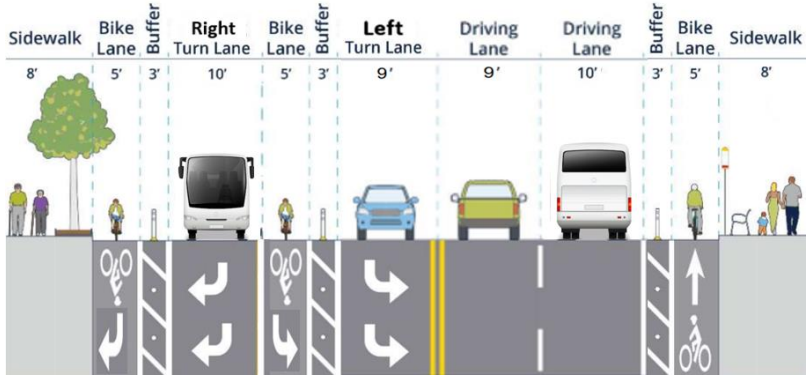
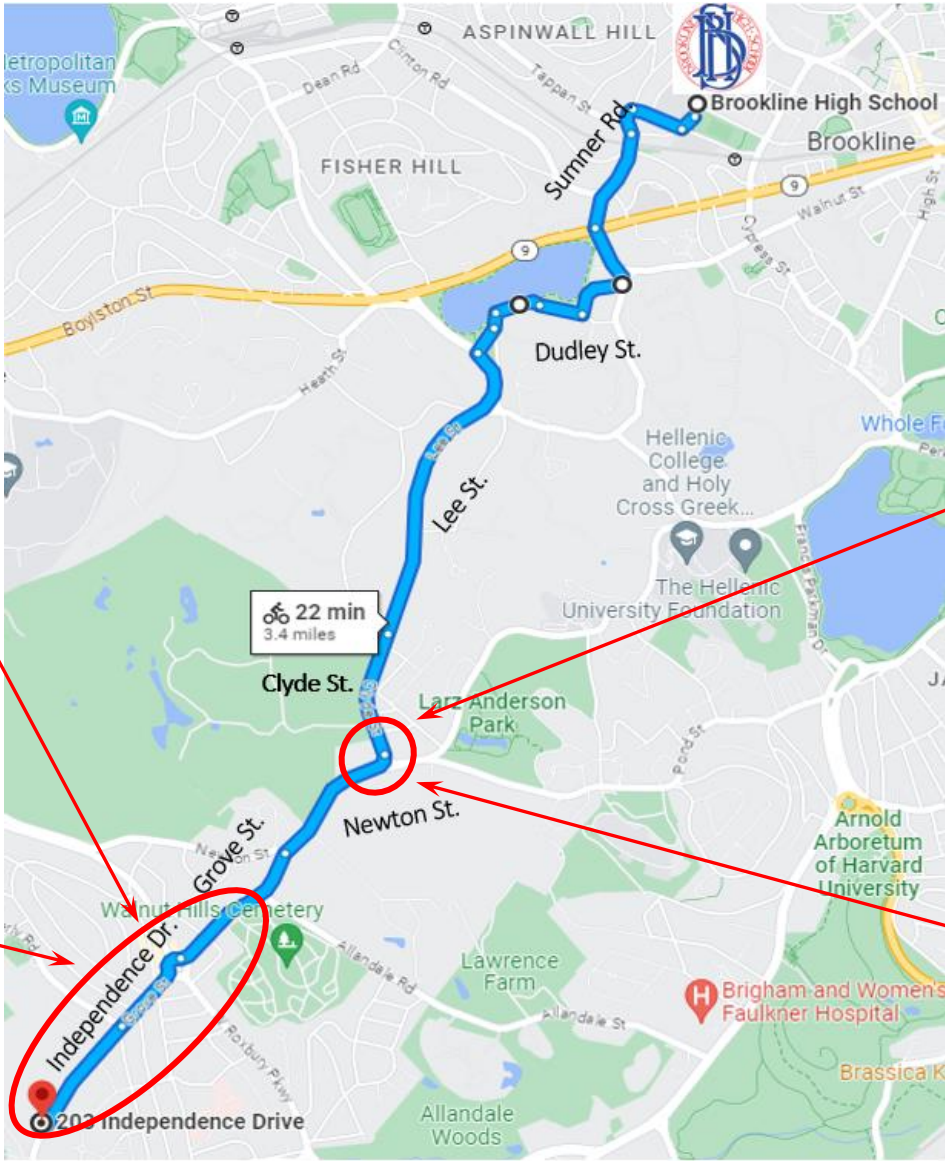


Add Bike Lane inside rotary by eliminating 2nd vehicle lane

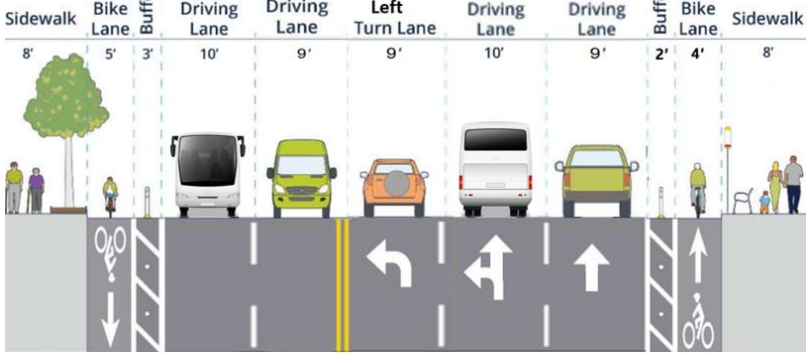


Overview of Independence Dr. to Grove St. till Allandale Rd. intersection

Over 300 car accidents reported in the stretch of roadway, Independence Dr. to Newton & Clyde St.*



Cross-section Clyde St. traffic lights before proceeding onto Newton St.

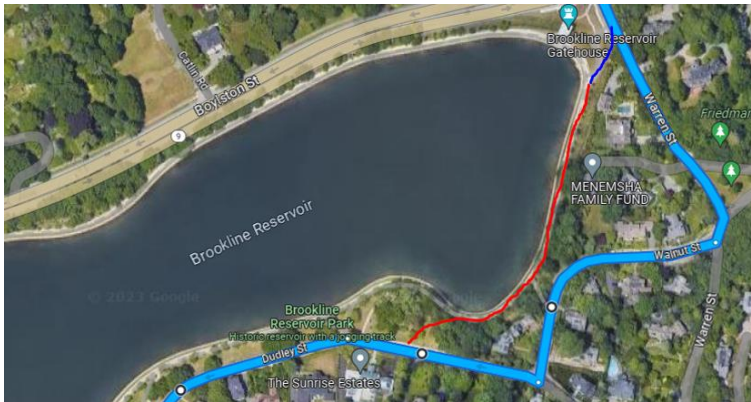


Cross-section Newton St. traffic lights before proceeding through the lights

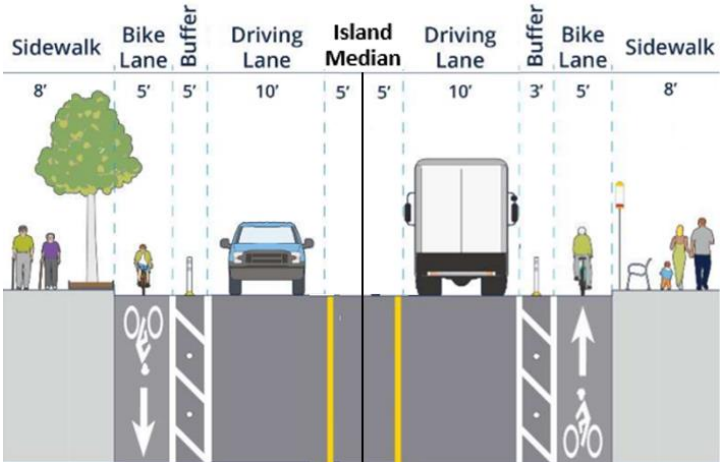
Car accidents occur in the location 15X per year on average from 2013 to 2019.*

*Supplied Brookline Police Public car accident report 2021

Overview South Brookline Connections with Safe Routes to BHS



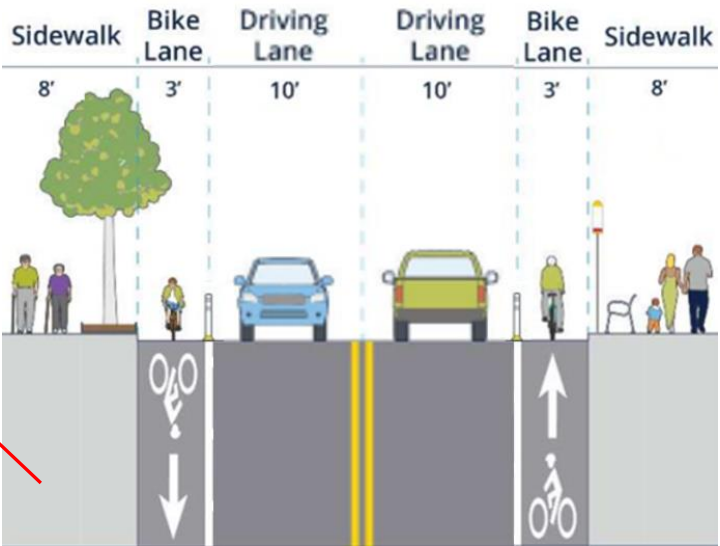
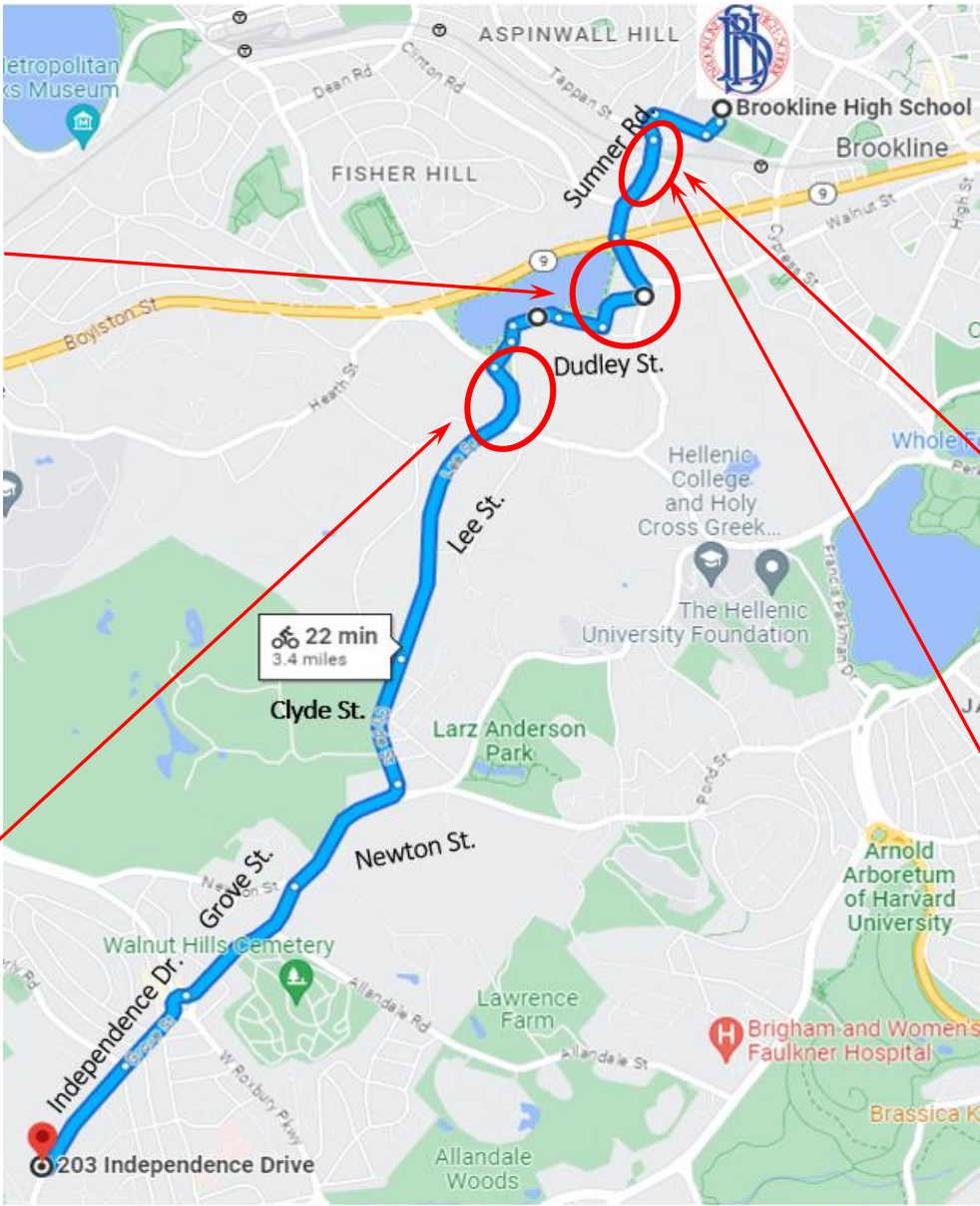
Traveling along side of the Reservoir with safety concerns



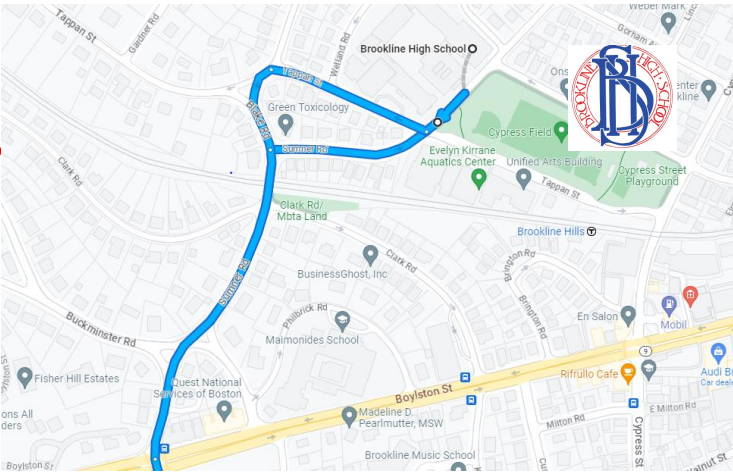
Cross-section of Lee St. between the intersection of Warren St. & Dudley Way.

Car Accidents occur 15X per year in this one stretch of roadway from 2014 to 2019*

*Supplied Brookline Police Public car accident report 2021



Cross-section of Sumner Rd. between Buckminster Rd. and just over the MBTA bridge



Maintain unprotected bike lane with flex pole for additional protection, down Sumner Rd. to BHS and Back.

Support from the School Committee - Safe Bike Routes to School

- **Endorse** – Allow our students and others to have chooses how they get to school
- **Encourage** – Bike riding among our students & staff
- **Environment** – Establishing perks for those who ride vs. a gas vehicle to school
- **Economics** – Cost of living and the challenge of owning a vehicle
- **The Safest Protected Bike Lanes** - This route is the only reasonable, fastest route from SB to BHS. Reported car accidents accounted for 7.6% of all car accidents in the Town. We need the best developed bike lanes on this route.*
- **Public support** –We need public option in favor of such a project and others. We plan to have a petition once Transportation and Engineering finalize the plan. Help us communicate this bike route and the petition.



*Supplied Brookline Police Public car accident report 2021

Boston's Goals - Making their Roadways Safer

Plans posted on City Hall website

- Over the next 3 years, 50% of Boston Residents will have a three-minute walk from a safe and connected bike route.
- Grow Boston's public bike share by 40%, adding more than 100 stations, (like Bluebike stations)
- Build speed humps in 30 more community zones
- Add 75 raised crosswalks at parks, libraries, community centers and schools
- Help 600 women gain confidence in riding bikes
- Hire more people to manage the segment
- *Survey conducted in 2021 showed 77% of those responded were in favor of building separate bike lanes even if some space for driving or parking was removed.
- During peak times, people on bikes are regularly 10-25% of all traffic.
- Today 52% of Boston's jobs are within a 3-minute walk of a bike network. By next Winter, 72% of jobs will be on or near to comfortable bike network.

Project examples of planned or completed safe bike projects

- 59 miles of off-street bike paths
- 17.5 miles of separated bike lanes
- 8 miles of neighborhood routes
- 4.5 miles of Comfortable Bike Lanes (CBL) are in construction now.
- Arnold Arboretum – Vehicle lane reduction
- Northeastern Univ. Huntington Ave. – Vehicle lane reduction
- Centre St. West Roxbury – this Fall
- Poplar St. Roslindale/Hyde Park – this Fall



THANK YOU



Brookline Community Foundation

presentation to the

Brookline School Committee

Wednesday, September 13th, 2023



bcb



BROOKLINE **COMMUNITY**
FOUNDATION

welcome

SEPTEMBER 2023

about BCF

BCF's youth and
education work

engaged research

report: economic
inequality today

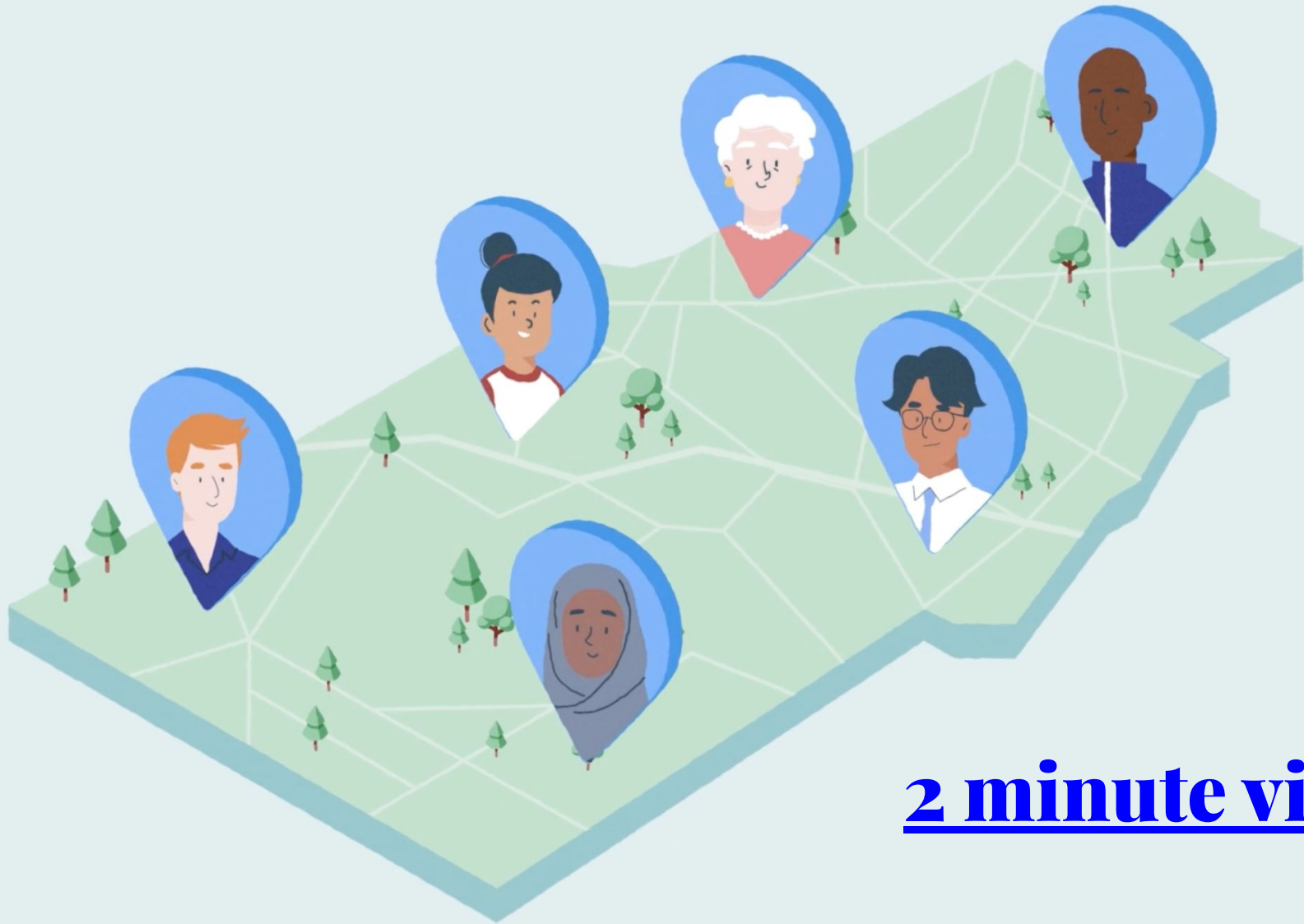
community
indicators
database

what comes next

questions &
discussion

AGENDA





2 minute video

BCF's philanthropic history

- **1878** — women become active in the Temperance movement in Massachusetts.
- **1905** — a group of women organized and incorporated the Brookline Friendly Society, which provided health and social services for Brookline residents.
- **1957** — the Brookline Friendly Society became the parent organization for Family Services of Brookline and Brookline Visiting Nurses Service.
- **1999** — the Brookline Friendly Society renamed itself the Brookline Community Fund and began offering small grants to the community.
- **2005** — the Brookline Community Fund renamed itself the Brookline Community Foundation to reflect its expanded mission and grantmaking.
- **2010** — BCF was recognized for complying with the National Standards for United States Community Foundations by the Community Foundations National Standards Board.



Health Center, 1943

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Health Center, 1943

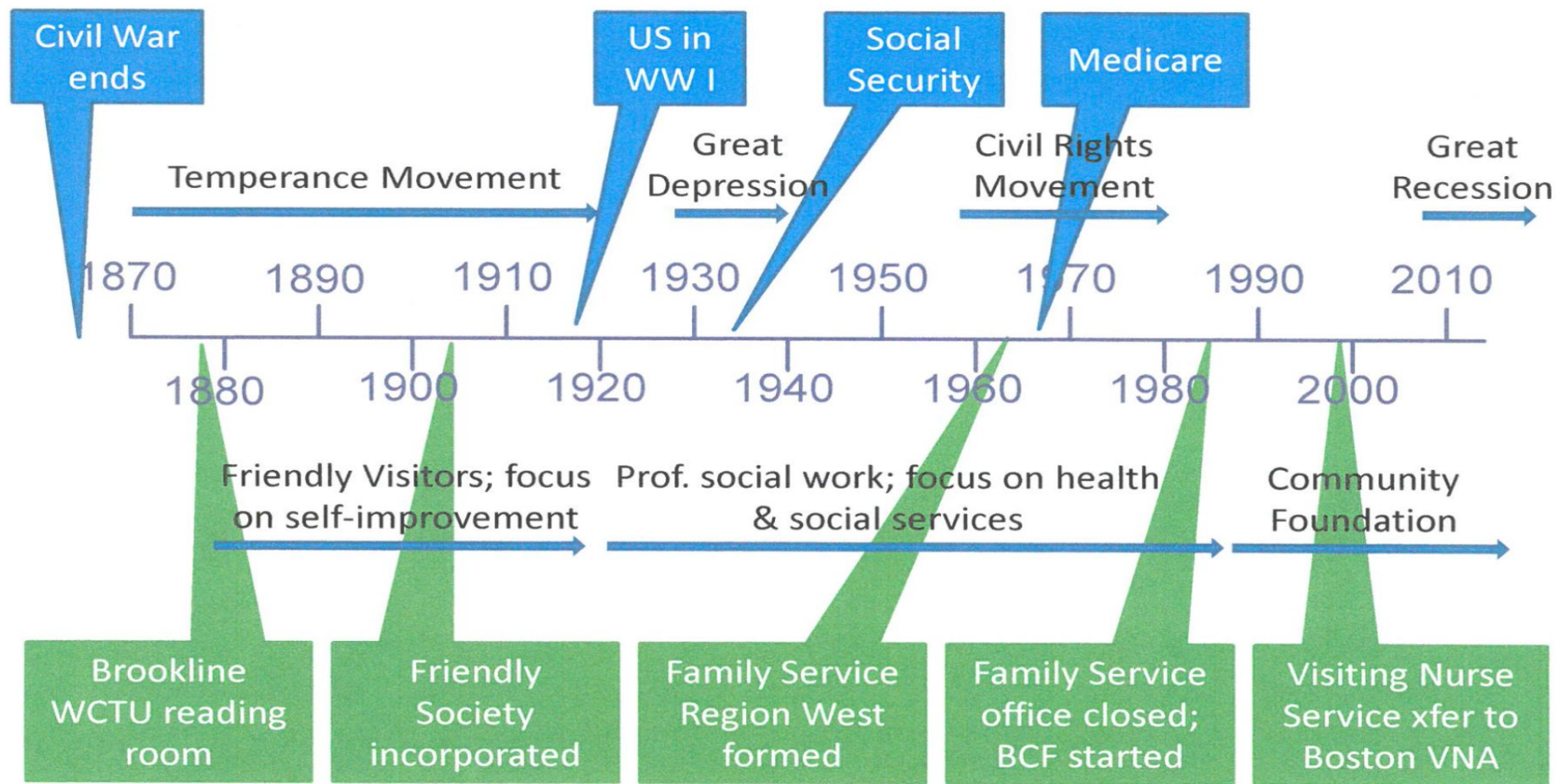
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Health Center, 1943

Brookline Friendly Society Timeline





| ABOUT BCF

vision

A better Brookline for all

mission

Brookline Community Foundation creates opportunity and promotes equity through the transformative power of giving

values

Lead by Listening | Anchored in Equity | Sustainable
Support | Community First



bef's areas of work

A person wearing a white jacket, a light-colored cap, and yellow protective gloves is using pruning shears to trim a rose bush. The background is a soft-focus garden with green foliage and some red roses.

1. philanthropic leadership

partnering with the community

investing in brookline

research & insights

A person is walking away from the camera on a crosswalk with rainbow-colored stripes (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple). The person is wearing a dark blue sleeveless shirt, dark shorts, and blue sneakers. A black backpack is on their back, and a pair of glasses is hanging from the top of it. The background is a bright, sunny day on a city street.

2022 by the numbers

841
donors

\$2,121,248
to support the Brookline
community through BCF's
grantmaking, partnerships &
capacity-building initiatives.

47
organizations,
community groups
& students
received support
through grants,
sponsorships &
scholarships

FY 2023 by the numbers

\$638,179

BCF Fund for Brookline
(Unrestricted)

\$80,273

Bcf Safety Net Fund

\$500,000

BCF ARPA Safety Net

\$93,323

BCF Scholarship Fund for
Brookline High School

\$41,531

BCF Opportunity &
Equity Fund

\$360,665

Youth Fund and Other
Funds



BCF Youth Fund Grants

*Brookline Youth Development grants are made to ensure **equal access to opportunities for all youth in Brookline** and specifically to promote activities that are inclusive and represent the diversity within the Brookline community.*

Since the Fund was established in 1999, the Brookline Youth Fund has awarded over **\$1,075,000** in grants to **47** different local organizations.

Recent Grantees include: Brookline Arts Center, Brookline Food Pantry, Brookline interactive Group, Brookline Recreation Department, Brookline Teen Center, Family ACCESS, LEAP Self-Defense, Organized Youth, Steps to Success



A person with a yellow backpack is walking away from the camera on a sidewalk. The sidewalk is paved with light-colored stones. There are trees and a brick building in the background. The person is wearing a dark skirt and a yellow backpack.

BCF investments in educational programming since 2018

Since 2018, BCF has invested over [\\$1,380,000](#) through [90 grants](#) to [35 local partners](#) to in-school and out-of-school time educational programming.

Key Partners include: the Public Schools of Brookline, Brookline Asian American Family Network, Brookline Early Education Program (BEEP), Brookline Housing Authority, Brookline Interactive Group, Brookline Teen Center, Educators for Anti-Racism, Martin Trust Partnership in Education for Early Learners, Steps to Success, and more!





BCF Scholarship Fund for Brookline High School

-
- Total raised since 2016: **\$1,412,749**
- **141** total donors to the fund, **44** new donors in FY 23
- Total awarded to Brookline High School in 2023 by BCF: **\$181,700**



BCF & COVID RESPONSE

Partnership with the Town of Brookline

ARPA Community Engagement

Expanded Safety Net Grant Program

\$1.3M to support ~13K residents

bcf's engaged research

about BCF

BCF & HCCF history

engaged research

report: economic
inequality today

community indicators
database

what comes next

questions & discussion

BCF has long been at the forefront of Brookline-focused research – using our depth of local knowledge to catalyze conversations, drive collective action and inspire reinvestment

BCF research efforts have helped inspire and advance community conversations around some of the most pressing challenges and exciting opportunities facing the Brookline community:

catalyzing conversations & action

QUESTION: WHERE DO GAPS BETWEEN IMMEDIATE, URGENT NEEDS AND THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO FILL THEM EXIST?

- **ACTION:** *Expansion of the Safety Net Fund and increased assessment of community resources*

QUESTION: HOW IS POVERTY IMPACTING OUR NEIGHBORS?

- **ACTION:** *Refocus of BCF's strategy towards investing in efforts that reduce racial and economic inequities*

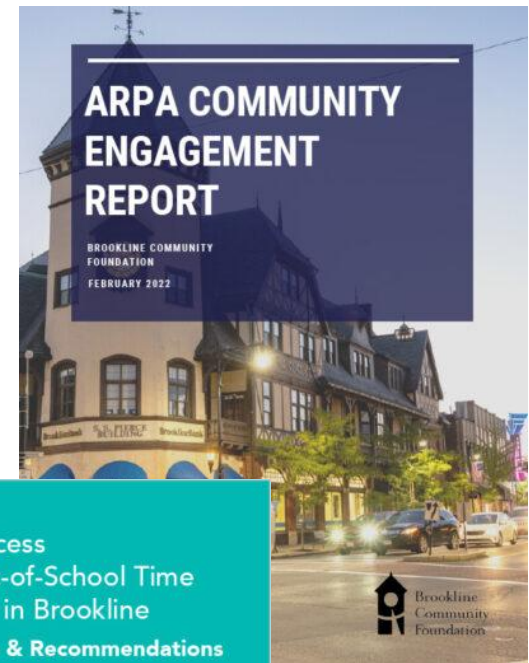
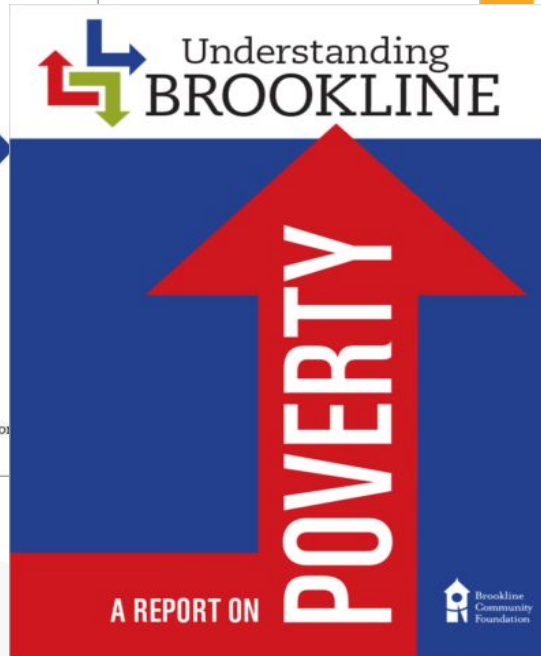
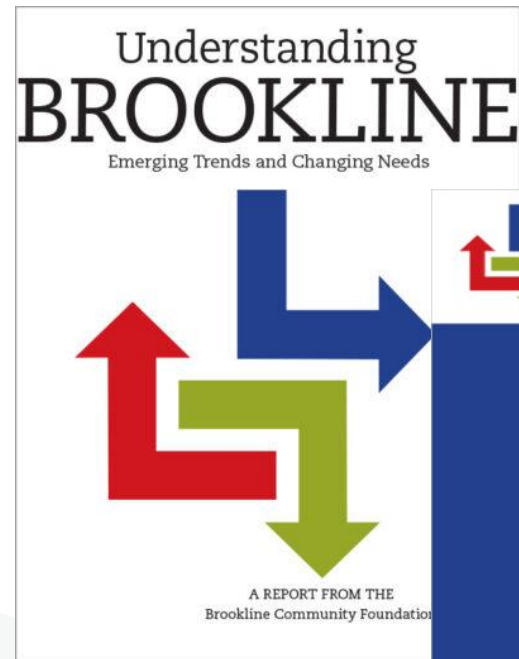
QUESTION: HOW CAN WE INVEST RESOURCES THAT ADDRESS RACIAL DISPARITIES AND INEQUITY IN BROOKLINE?

- **ACTION:** *Creation of the Racial Equity Grant Fund*

QUESTION: WHAT INVESTMENTS WOULD WE PRIORITIZE FOR ARPA FUNDING IF WE KNEW WHERE COMMUNITY MEMBERS SAW OPPORTUNITIES?

- **ACTION:** *Facilitation of Town-wide community engagement process*

research & insights





KEY FINDINGS ACROSS ALL ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS



Need to support public health response by: investing in public health departments; investing in public health infrastructure, and; investing in crisis-intervention services to support key impacted groups (older adults, youth, families living on low or limited income, and community members most impacted by inequities).



Need to invest in equity-focused services by: investing in programs that address the social determinants of health; increasing access to in-school support and out of school programs for youth; investing in building more affordable housing and enhancing existing public housing, and; investing in programs that promote healthy childhood environments.



Need to address negative economic impacts by: providing assistance to households, workers, and families, particularly from key impacted groups, and; providing support for nonprofits and the small business sectors in Brookline.



Need to provide premium pay to essential workers, particularly low- and moderate-income workers.



Need to invest in infrastructure by Improving broadband access and technology training to unserved or underserved households and key impacted groups.

Understanding Brookline

about BCF

BCF & HCCF history

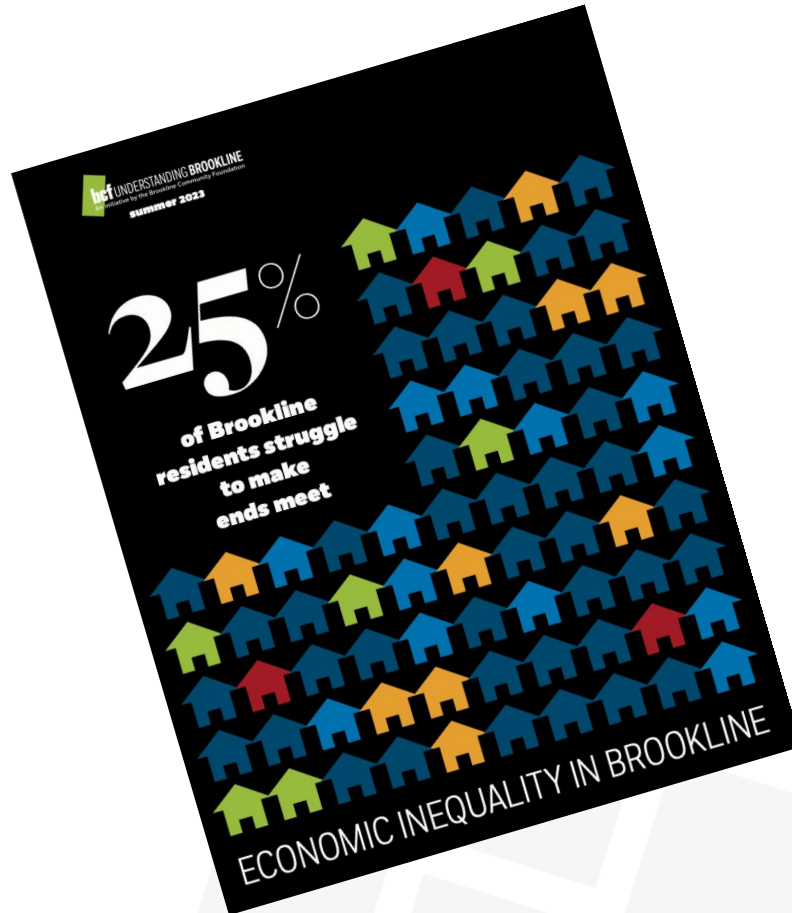
engaged research

report: economic
inequality today

community indicators
database

what comes next

questions &
discussion



Brookline is **growing.**
Brookline is **diversifying**
(in some ways)...

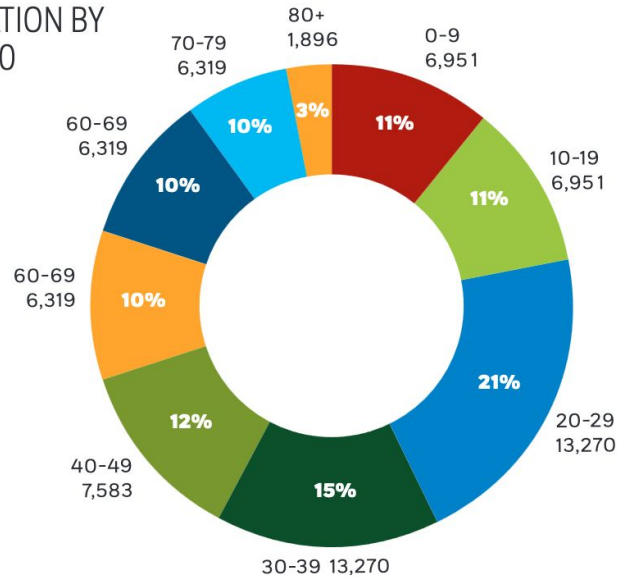
while becoming unaffordable
for many. How do we understand
today's reality to build a

**better
Brookline for
tomorrow?**

research highlights:

Brookline's population is growing and becoming more diverse

POPULATION BY
AGE 2020



30% of Brookline's population identifies as Black, Asian, Latiné, or multiracial

33% of residents above the age of 5 speak a language other than English at home

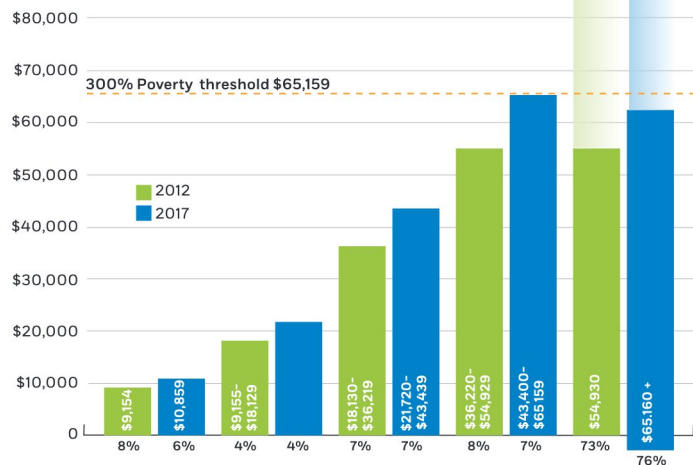
36.1% of Brookline's population sits at the furthest ends of the age spectrum

22% of Brookline's population is below the age of 19, and 23% are above the age of 60

research highlights:

The gap between those living in poverty and those with financial security is growing

POVERTY RATES IN BROOKLINE FOR
A THREE-PERSON HOUSEHOLD



At least **41%** of Brookline households make incomes below the living wage estimate for Norfolk County.

1 in 4 Brookline residents are financially vulnerable & economically insecure

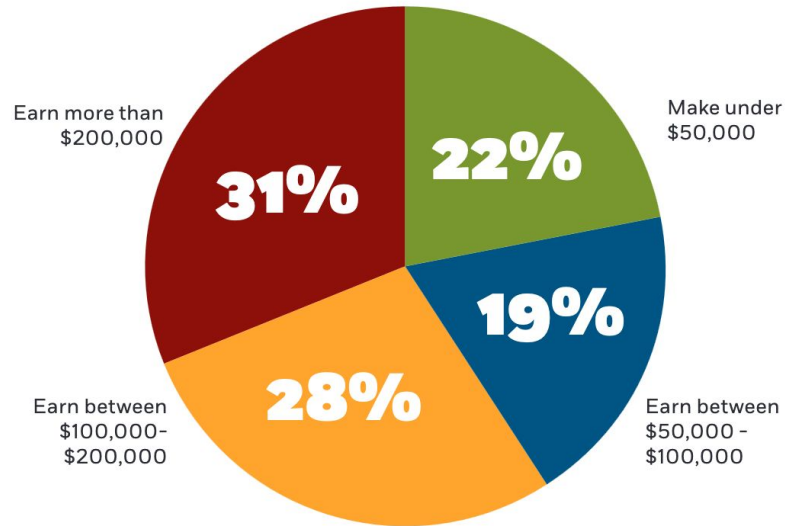
10.68% of adults over the age of 65 and **11.28%** of women live in poverty

**The federal poverty threshold for a household of 3 people is around \$21,000.
But in Norfolk County, the living wage estimate is nearly \$115,000.**

research highlights:

Poverty rates are falling,
but significant economic needs persist

MEDIAN INCOME LEVELS BY
HOUSEHOLDS IN BROOKLINE IN 2017



Median Household Income of \$122,356

\$50,000 is the difference in median household income between white and Black Brookline households

Childcare in Norfolk County is the **4th** most expensive in the entire country (\$26,409)

36% of Brookline residents—*nearly 25,000 people*—are housing burdened.

MEDIAN INCOME IN
BROOKLINE BY RACE



White



Black



Latino/a



Asian

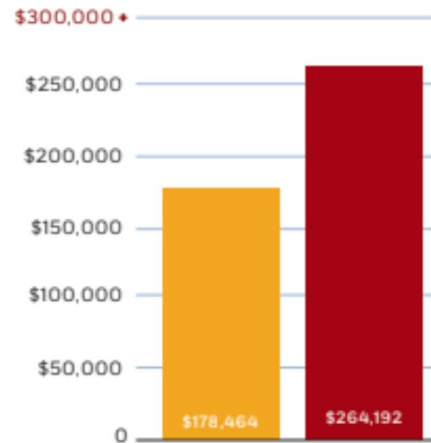
Source: American Community Survey 2017-2021

The rising costs of essentials is making it harder to build financial security

research highlights:

Incomes aren't keeping up with rising costs

HOUSING COSTS FOR RENTERS
VS. OWNERS HEADLINE



	RENT	OWN
Housing	\$2452	\$5945
Utilities including Phone and Internet	\$390 (Assuming heat included in rent)	\$469
Childcare	\$2167	\$2167
Transit	\$373	\$373
Food	\$1404	\$1404
Healthcare	\$650	\$650
Civic/Activities	\$400	\$400
Other	\$400	\$400
Total Monthly Expenses	\$8,236	\$11,808
Total Annual Expenses	\$98,832	\$141,696
Total Post-Tax Income Needed to Thrive in Brookline	\$178,464	\$264,192

To simply access housing, utilities, childcare, transportation, food, healthcare, and more—a renter with childcare needs would need to earn an estimated **\$98,832 annually (\$8,236/month)** to cover housing childcare costs, and other expenses without being financially burdened.

A homeowner with childcare needs who purchased their home in 2020 would need to earn **\$141,696 (\$11,808/month)** to afford the same.

Source: Pew Research [pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/06/08/key-fact](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/06/08/key-fact)

*The living wage estimate for Norfolk County has **DOUBLED** in only five years*

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Understanding Brookline database

Accessing **RELIABLE, ACCURATE
COMMUNITY DATA** gives us all the
information we need to assess gaps and
create new solutions. BCF's new open
database provides that resource to the
Brookline community



explore

50 indicators covering health, economics, education, resources, equity, and more side-by-side

combine

Key indicators and categories to bring big questions into focus

create

Custom dashboards to synthesize data, make connections and highlight trends



**Putting the power of real-time
community data
in everyone's hands**

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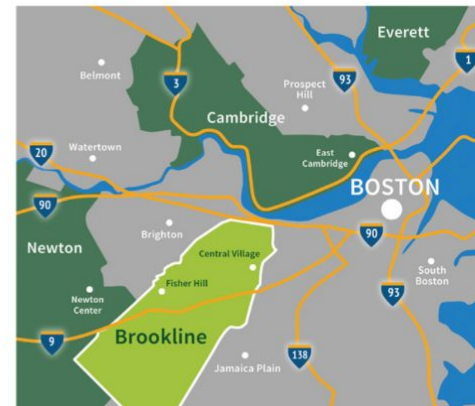
a community indicators project

Regional data for community action.

understanding brookline

Understanding Brookline is an equity-focused community indicators project with data and analysis spanning 6 topic areas and 50 individual indicators. Our aim is to provide information that the Brookline community can use to examine disparities across racial, ethnic and socioeconomic divides – and then work to eliminate disparities ingenium epulae ne tempor ne. faucibus pagus reprob.

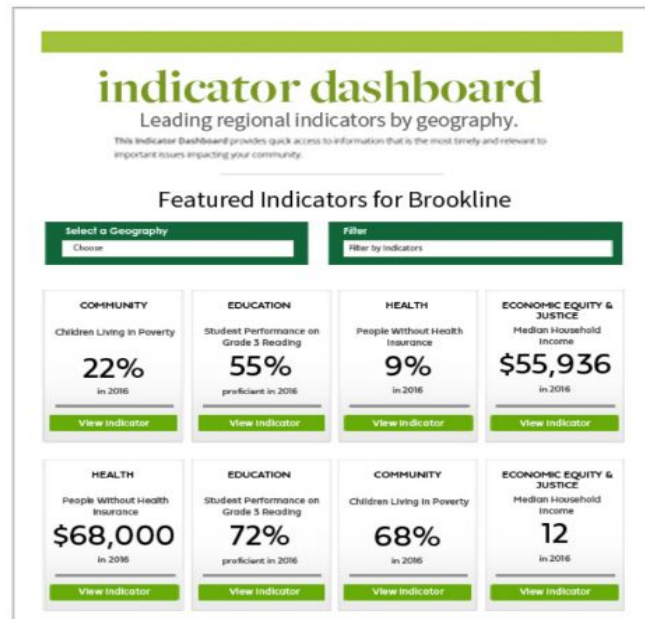
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create a dashboard

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■ CREATE A DASHBOARD



The Indicators

Community

Economic Equity
& Justice

Education

Essential Needs

Health

Racial Equity

With these new research tools as a platform, BCF will:

- ❑ **PUBLISH** both the report and database, focusing on facilitating community learnings and conversations in the next 5 months
- ❑ **BUILD** a research agenda based on initial insights and feedback
- ❑ **PARTNER** with community organizations, grantee partners, and community members to co-author issue briefs and new research offerings
- ❑ **SUSTAIN** ongoing Brookline-focused research to drive ongoing engagement, conversations, and convenings in our community to inspire collective actions and reinvestment

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Questions for you

HOW can we nurture the diversity and vibrancy of our community in a time of rising costs and income disparity?

HOW do we increase the capacity of our most in-demand resources and extend benefits to all those who need them?

HOW do we build on the strengths of Brookline's civic infrastructure to address the most persistent and newly emerging needs of Brookline residents?

WHAT creative solutions and new or strengthened collaborations can help us make Brookline a truly great place to live for all residents?

JOIN THE
CONVERSATION

about BCF

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**questions &
discussion**

Questions



bcf

BROOKLINE **COMMUNITY**
FOUNDATION

FOR
JOINING
thanks



The Public Schools of Brookline
Town Hall
333 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

To: School Committee
Linus J. Guillory, PhD

From: Susan K. Givens, Ed.D.

Re: Substitute Rates for FY24

Date: August 29, 2023

We have conducted a survey of surrounding school short term rates for substitute teachers and nurses. We learned that the average daily teacher rate in our area is \$131 compared to our rate of \$112 and the average daily rate for nurses is \$193 compared to our rate of \$175.

With the labor pool being tight, it is important that we offer a competitive rate to attract and retain substitutes. To be competitive, we would like to raise the per diem rate for teachers to \$135 and to \$200 for nurses. Substitutes are non-aligned employee.

Data:

Per Diem Rates		
Districts	Teachers	Nurses
Arlington	120	
Lexington	150	150
Needham	111	225
Wellsley	140	195
Weston	140	
Milton	110	
Cambridge	173	
Watertown	105	
Newton	125	
Somerville	150	
Belmont		200
Deedham	120	
Average	131	193
Brookline	112	175
Recommend	135	200

Motion: To increase the per diem rate for substitute teachers to \$135 and for nurses to \$200 effective September 1, 2023.

9. PSB Capital Improvements Plan

9a. FY25-30 CIP Summary*

	Proposals	FY24 (Actual, Prior FY)	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	Total	Notes
PSB	Classroom Capacity (Leases)	2,026,982	640,332	665,945	692,583	720,286	749,098	TBA	5,495,227	missing FY30
	Failing Furniture & Fixtures Replacement	25,000	200,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	600,000	
	IEP Accommodations - School Modifications	N/A	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	300,000	
	Lawrence Cafeteria Expansion - Feasibility Study	N/A		50,000					50,000	
	Deferred Maintenance	1,000,000	2,120,675	1,073,000	825,000	1,405,000	1,025,000	870,000	8,318,675	
	Long Term Capital Plan		250,000						250,000	
	Baker School - Feasibility Study						2,600,000		2,600,000	
	Baker School - Construction							TBD	0	
PSB Subtotal		3,051,982	3,261,007	1,913,945	1,642,583	2,250,286	4,499,098	995,000	17,613,902	
DPW	Lincoln Playground Renovation							5,100,000	5,100,000	
	Heath Playground Renovation						4,200,000		4,200,000	
	Lawrence/Longwood Playground								0	
	Baker Playground Renovation							6,600,000	6,600,000	
DPW Subtotal		0	0	0	0	0	4,200,000	11,700,000	15,900,000	
Buildings	HVAC Equipment	200,000							200,000	pending
	Underground Tank removal		60,000	60,000	30,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	330,000	~50% PSB
	Town/School ADA Renovations	90,000	127,680	137,760	148,890	158,970	170,100	180,180	1,013,580	
	Town/School Elevator Renovations	250,000	100,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,600,000	~7% PSB
	Town/School Energy Conservation Projects									opening
	Town/School Energy Management Projects	130,000							130,000	pending
	Town School Building Envelope/Fenestration Repairs		1,747,731	3,337,417	575,919	1,043,883	6,764,586	1,202,856	14,672,392	~80% PSB
	Town/School Roof Repair/Replacement Program		500,000	550,000	600,000	650,000	700,000	750,000	3,750,000	~60% PSB
	Public Building Fire Alarm Upgrades	125,000	150,000	175,000	200,000	225,000	250,000	275,000	1,400,000	
	Town/School Building Security/Life Safety Systems	170,000	180,000	205,500	246,000	256,500	682,000	307,500	2,047,500	
	Town/School Compactor Replacements									none forecast
Buildings Subtotal		965,000	2,865,411	4,715,677	2,050,809	2,644,353	8,876,686	3,025,536	25,143,472	
Total		4,016,982	6,126,418	6,629,622	3,693,392	4,894,639	17,575,784	15,720,536	58,657,374	

*Out year amounts provided as estimates. DPW and Buildings schools-related requests provided for informational purposes only; please see those departments for details on those requests.

**Currently proposed for \$5.9M in future years and not shown here.

*** Currently proposed for FY29 in DPW request; moved to FY30 here to align with Baker project.

9b. FY25 CIP Requests - Narrative Detail

Schools: Classroom Capacity (Leases)

The total FY25 request is \$640,332, a reduction of \$1,386,650 from FY24.

Background

The Classroom Capacity account was first funded in order to address ongoing space needs for students and staff within the existing eight elementary schools. The original intent was for the funds to “expand in place.” In the past, the account has funded minor building modifications, e.g. reconfiguring walls and subdividing classrooms, as well as the addition of modular classrooms through lease-purchase agreements.

As K-8 enrollment increased, the space available to house BEEP classrooms in our elementary schools decreased. As a result, BEEP classrooms were moved to leased spaces. The leasing costs for these spaces are included in the appropriation for the Classroom Capacity account. The long-range plan is to return all BEEP classrooms to PSB owned property. **FY24 was the last year of the Clark Road lease.**

The FY25 request funds the continuation of the following two leases.

- BEEP @ Beacon - located at Temple Ohabei Shalom, Northeast corner of Brookline
 - The Temple Ohabei Shalom lease includes approximately 6,800 square feet of space that is shared with the Temple’s aftercare program which limits our use. The location houses five classrooms, two small offices, and a conference room.
 - The current plan is to continue the lease until completion of the new Pierce (FY28 target). The options years expire in FY30.
- BEEP @ Putterham - located at Temple Emeth, Southwest corner of Brookline
 - The Temple Emeth lease includes full-day access to approximately 9,800 square feet of space. Currently, four BEEP classrooms are housed at this location. The lease term is ten years with tenant options to extend beginning in FY24. The School Committee can exercise one-year options until the lease expires in FY29.
 - Because of the location of this site, there are no current plans to transition students out until a Baker reconstruction project occurs.

At the request of the School Committee, the leases for Temple Emeth and Temple Ohabei Shalom were to include tenant option years. Beginning in FY24 and going forward, PSB has the option to extend each lease for an additional year. Per the lease agreements, we are required to notify the landlord of our intent to either renew or terminate the lease no later than November 1.

School Committee Vote

The School Committee voted to renew the leases with Temple Emeth and Temple Ohabei Shalom for FY25. Notice has been sent to the landlords.

Schools: Failing Furniture and Fixtures Replacement

The FY25 request is for \$200,000. Of this amount, \$75,000 is reserved for replacement of failing furniture and fixtures, and \$125,000 is specifically to replace cafeteria tables for the high school cafeteria.

Background

The \$75,000 request is a continuous program to replace and upgrade the furniture and fixtures in all school buildings, i.e. classroom and office furniture that is at end of life (desks, chairs, whiteboards/corkboards). The program replaces the most outdated and worn items. Annually, school furniture has significant wear and tear. Over time, nearly all items will require replacement prior to any construction/renovation project being approved and funded. Furniture life is extended

through reuse of furniture at other locations whenever possible during a building project. For example: the Pierce library furniture will be reused at another school.

The remaining \$125,000 request is to replace high school cafeteria tables which were not funded as part of the building project. They were also requested for FY24 and not funded. The tables currently in use are from the 1990s and showing significant signs of use. Because they are exceptionally heavy, and cumbersome to move, it is more difficult to thoroughly clean the cafeteria floor. The current seating is due for replacement. The old tables would be replaced with mobile cafeteria tables and seating.

School Committee Vote

The School Committee voted to request \$200,000 for furniture replacement.

Schools: IEP Accommodations - School Modifications

The FY25 request is \$50,000.

Background

This is a new request identified in collaboration with the Building department and in conversation with the community. There are modifications required to buildings in response to IEP accommodations that are outside of the scope of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), for which a separate line item is requested by the Building department. For example - a student may require a safety room with padded walls, but that type of safety support is not contemplated by the ADA and thus those building modifications are currently unfunded. In recent years the costs for these modifications have been tens of thousands of dollars a year. This would also include adaptive play equipment, such as adjustable-height basketball hoops.

School Committee Vote

The School Committee voted to request \$50,000.

Schools: Deferred Maintenance

The FY25 request is for \$2,120,675. The estimated cost over the next six years is \$8,318,675.

Background

This line item funds building repair needs that are not able to be completed in the annual maintenance of the schools by the Building department due to budget limitations, and thus have reached “deferred maintenance” status. Some examples of items are necessary electrical panel upgrades, painting and flooring repair, and stairwell maintenance.

Following FY24’s extremely successful deferred maintenance program, which focused on Lincoln (first floor renewal, auditorium renewal, Baker (auditorium renewal), Runkle (painting, woodwork, bathroom faucets, window shades), and Heath (painting/flooring, acoustic panels), FY25 will focus on continuing the work at Lincoln to refresh the second and third floors, updating Baldwin so that it can be used (needed to transition key programs/offices from the Clark Road lease), electrical upgrades at Heath (a precursor to needed future HVAC improvements), repairs to the Runkle auditorium, and critical flooring/stair work at Lawrence and Baker.

The items included on the deferred maintenance list have varied over the last seven years. The projected deferred maintenance has ranged from \$14M to nearly \$19.6M during this time period - and is currently about half of that average (\$8.3M). The reason for this reduction is a tighter understanding of upcoming projects due to closer collaboration between PSB staff, Building department staff, and School Committee. Because of this tighter collaboration, many projects that have been shown in prior years as pending have either been removed - either due to completion (the list was outdated) or due to incomplete information that must be completed to be considered for future inclusion. However, we do not expect it to bounce back to prior year levels.

School Committee Vote

The School Committee voted to request \$2,120,675. As noted above - the scope, capacity, and details have been closely coordinated with the Town Building Department.

Long-Term Capital Plan

The last independent long-term capital plan for the Public Schools of Brookline was completed in February 2009. Since then, PSB has experienced significant changes to our buildings, and enrollment. Programmatic space needs have required leasing spaces for classrooms and offices. Additionally, market conditions have changed resulting in increased pricing and changes to cost estimates. This request was not funded in FY23 or FY24. The FY25 request is \$250,000 which is at the same level requested previously, but not funded.

School Committee Vote

The School Committee voted to request \$250,000 to fund an independent long-term capital plan.

9c. Future-year CIP Projects

Lawrence Cafeteria Expansion - Feasibility Study

The Lawrence School has received several additions/expansions in recent years to accommodate additional student capacity. However, the cafeteria, which is in the basement, has not been expanded, its size is a serious limitation to the school functioning. The basement location is extremely challenging to work with. An estimate of \$50,000 for FY26 has been included to support a feasibility study of what can be done to improve the lunch conditions of the school.

Baker Feasibility Study: Renovation/Construction/Possible Expansion

After completion of the new Pierce School (target date FY28), Baker is the oldest elementary school requiring a feasibility study to determine enrollment and programmatic space requirements and renovations needed in order to meet state standards. Estimated cost for FY29 is projected to be \$2,600,000 for a feasibility study; there is a placeholder of \$1 in FY30 for construction.

Background

The Baker School is a K-8 school located at 205 Beverly Road. It has approximately 114,000 square feet. Sections of the building were constructed in 1936, 1950, 2000 and 2016. This includes the addition of two modular classrooms. The last renovation included most, but not all of the building. The site is in a residential neighborhood, abuts the Hoar Sanctuary, Town tennis courts, an athletic field of about 83,000 square feet, an elementary school playground and basketball court of approximately 21,500 square feet, and a kindergarten playground of roughly 3,600 square feet.

Onsite parking on the side and back of the building can accommodate approximately 50 vehicles. Because the onsite parking cannot accommodate the entire school staff, employees park in front of the field on Beverly Road or in the surrounding neighborhood.

The building has been maintained. The HVAC system provides good ventilation. The building is heated by natural gas. During the summer of 2022, the third floor and kindergarten classrooms received air conditioning upgrades.

Analysis

The enrollment at the Baker School has experienced steady growth over the past 40 years:

Baker Enrollment Summary			
Decade	Avg Population	Low	High
1981 to 1990	411	370	462
1990 to 1999	606	462	667
2000 to 2009	648	608	719
2010 to 2019	751	678	814
Last 8 years			
2015 to 2022	721	617	793

The pandemic shutdown and construction/renovation of existing housing units at nearby Hancock Village impacted the Baker School enrollment; ranging from 750 on October 1, 2019, to 650 students on October 1, 2020, to 617 students on October 1, 2021, to 672 students on October 1, 2022. As the Hancock Village renovations are completed and the units occupied, we anticipate enrollment at Baker will increase more likely to the 2010-2019 average of 751 rather than the 2000 to 2009 average of 648.

PSB has contracted with several entities for updated enrollment projections which will help refine these projections, as will the completion of the Chestnut Hill Realty Corporation new construction.

The last project designed Baker as a 3 section school. The 2000 renovation/addition did not change most of the walls in the 1930 and 1950 wings. The result is that 22 of the 42 classrooms are below current state standards, including square footage for classrooms. The 2000 addition added 3 kindergarten classrooms. The cafeteria, with a seating capacity of 200, was expanded in place. It was not intended for more than 600 students or a 3 section school.

Post 2000, Baker enrollment increased, requiring the relocation of the Pre-K classrooms to rental property. The school schedule added lunch periods in order for the cafeteria to accommodate the increased enrollment. Smaller rooms were converted into classroom spaces. Some rooms in the 1930 section of the building are effectively capped, often under 20 students, due to the limited square footage. As enrollment continues to increase, a fully designed 4 section school should be considered.

Recommendation

PSB should consider submitting a Statement Of Interest (SOI) to the MSBA in 2026 or 2027 in an attempt to secure state funding for a feasibility study that would explore options for renovating or replacing the Baker School. The SOI should outline current and projected enrollment and programmatic space needs as well as the deficiencies of the building.

9d. Active Building Projects

To be updated for budget book.

Mission, Vision, and Goals

Adopted by a vote of the Brookline School Committee, 9.13.23.

Mission

The mission of the Brookline Public Schools is to educate and inspire every student to lead a fulfilling life and make positive contributions to our world.

Vision

Brookline provides every student with an extraordinary education, through enriching learning experiences and a supportive community, so that they may develop to their fullest potential.

Goals

Goal 1: Joy in Learning

Our schools are dedicated to teaching students to be involved, active learners who work hard, think critically and creatively, and communicate effectively. We emphasize high expectations for all students and seek to instill a lifelong joy in learning through a rich curriculum that will allow students to find and succeed at what they love, and flourish in their lives.

Goal 2: Excellence in Teaching

Passionate, knowledgeable, skillful teachers are the core strength of our schools. Our educators provide a dynamic and rewarding learning experience for students. We are committed to supporting a professional community that creates and sustains an atmosphere of intellectual excitement, innovative instruction, personal growth, and strong relationships between faculty and students.

Goal 3: Culture of Collaboration

An extraordinary education requires the coordinated efforts of many. Towards this end, we strive to solicit and foster collaboration between and among educators, administrators, community organizations, government institutions, private sector, and other interested parties, with the best interest of students serving as our guiding principle.

Goal 4: Celebration of Difference

Brookline is presently and historically diverse. We celebrate this diversity, and we commit to providing an education that authentically and deeply reflects the different perspectives, cultures, and experiences of our community. We strive to include the full range of Brookline voices, not just in our academic curriculum but in all school-based activities.

Goal 5: Commitment to Equity

We are committed to eliminating barriers to educational achievement in our schools. To this end, we create policies and practices so that every student, regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or socioeconomic status, experiences a safe and welcoming environment in our schools, and receives the resources and support they need to take fullest advantage of the opportunities a Brookline education offers. We recognize the existence of great disparities in private means among PSB students, and will do everything possible to ensure that private resources do not determine student outcomes.

Goal 6: Ethic of Wellness

For our students and the world around them to thrive, our schools must contribute to an ethic of wellness. PSB will attend to the social and emotional development of its students, so that they may flourish personally, build positive relationships, and contribute to a more caring and just world. PSB will also teach and adopt sustainable practices, inspiring and empowering students to be good stewards of the Earth.

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE
OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS**

Town Hall, 5th Floor, 333 Washington Street
Brookline, MA 02445

Telephone: 617-730-2430 Fax: 617-730-2601
www.brookline.k12.ma.us



David A. Pearlman, Chair
Andreas Liu, Vice Chair
Helen Charlupski
Steven Ehrenberg
Suzanne Federspiel
Valerie Frias
Natalia Linos
Mariah Nobrega

September 22, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: SUPPORT for TOWN OF BROOKLINE DAVIS PATH FOOTBRIDGE APPLICATION
USDOT FY2023 Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Construction Grant**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support from the Brookline School Committee for the Town of Brookline application to USDOT's FY2023 Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Capital Construction Grant Program to fund the rebuilding of the Davis Path Footbridge.

The Brookline School Committee voted unanimously to support the Concept Design for the Davis Path Footbridge at our regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, following a presentation and discussion with the project's design architecture and engineering team.

Not only does the Davis Path Footbridge restore a critical pedestrian path link above the MBTA Greenline transit trolley tracks, but it also provides both universal ADA access and bicycle/micro-mobility connections to public ways, an historic footpath system, and public park and school facilities adjacent to the bridge.

In particular, restoration of this vital footbridge will re-establish a safe pedestrian connection to the Old Lincoln School, a public school building that we utilize as a critical swing space during school construction projects. Hundreds of students are regularly assigned to Old Lincoln School, and the restored and accessible Davis Path Footbridge will make a tremendous difference to their safety.

The Brookline School Committee recognizes the alternative transportation significance of this historic pedestrian bridge that will reconnect Town neighborhoods and facilities along a formidable half-mile railway barrier, and would therefore, enthusiastically encourage the USDOT to fund the rebuilding of the Davis Path Footbridge, a project perfectly tailored to the objectives of the Federal Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Construction Grant program.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David A. Pearlman". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David A. Pearlman, Chair
Brookline School Committee

cc: Select Board, Town of Brookline
 Department of Public Works, Town of Brookline