

# The Board of Education Town of Brooklyn

119 Gorman Road  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Mae Lyons, Chair  
Melissa Perkins-Banas, Vice Chair  
Keith Atchinson, Secretary

Justin Phaiiah  
Nathan Richards  
Tana Jolley

Board of Selectmen  
Board of Finance  
Town of Brooklyn

July 26, 2021

Memo: HVAC Improvements, Brooklyn Public Schools

Dear Members of the Brooklyn Board of Selectman and Board of Finance,

I have been asked to write to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance on behalf of the Board of Education. The purpose of this memo is to request that when you are considering expenditures that you will approve with the ARP funds that you consider using some of the funds to upgrade the HVAC systems at Brooklyn Elementary and Brooklyn Middle Schools.

My review of the allowable expenditures for this funding could include funding projects that would address an issue that COVID-19 could have a harmful effect on.

Brooklyn Public Schools has undergone multiple additions and changes over the life of the buildings and there are different ventilation systems and limited air conditioning in the schools. During the 2020-21 school year, we increased air exchange and opened windows in every classroom to increase the negative air pressure in classrooms to force better air exchange. We will continue with this practice as we begin the 2021-2022 school year. New HVAC systems would also allow us to offer air conditioned classrooms across the district for students. During the last year we had three early release days due to extreme heat and our inability to cool down the buildings.

We would like to continue to explore this but we did seek quotes to have air conditioning installed in both schools. Initial estimates were approximately \$1,500,000 to install updated HVAC systems in the schools.

We hoped that we could apply for a Department of Administrative Services (DAS) School Construction Grant to offset the cost of HVAC upgrades. To date, this funding was not approved through the legislators and we are unsure of when that might happen.

This may be a project that the Town of Brooklyn wishes to invest in with ARP funding.

We would be happy to discuss this further with you should you request more information or explanation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia L. Buell".

Patricia L. Buell  
Superintendent

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Memo: Brooklyn Public Schools Boiler Replacements

Dear Members of the Brooklyn Board of Selectman and Board of Finance,

I have been asked to write to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance on behalf of the Board of Education. The purpose of this memo is to request that you consider the expense of replacing the Brooklyn Public Schools' boilers as you begin the new fiscal year. As you know we requested funding through the Capital Improvements funds and we agreed that while this is important, we would wait another year and hope that we can keep the boilers running.

We hoped that we could apply for a Department of Administrative Services (DAS) School Construction Grant to offset the cost of replacement. We have been informed that boiler replacements do not qualify for DAS School Construction funding.

The Town of Brooklyn was receiving ARP Funding and we wanted to see if the funds may be used for this type of project. We discussed the possibility of replacing our furnaces with natural gas furnaces if grant funding could be used for this type of project. As you consider requests for funding projects to apply ARP funds towards, we would ask that you consider the furnace replacements if applicable.

As a reminder, we believe that the cost of replacing furnaces, two at BMS and two at BES would cost approximately \$300,000 based on the estimates received in early 2021. We would be happy to discuss this further with you should you request more information or explanation.

Respectfully,



Patricia L. Buell  
Superintendent