

To: School Committee
From: Lemma Jn-baptiste, Director of Finance & Operations
Date: May 9, 2019
RE: Summer HVAC Projects

In FY20, the Town of Westwood has approved the appropriation of \$1,017,000 for school capital improvements. In general, these items do not represent new initiatives but rather repair and replacement of the Department's existing capital stock.

The appropriation included an amount of \$192,400 for HVAC projects. We plan to install air conditioning units in a targeted list of classrooms and offices that have been deemed high priority, as well as replace a small number of cooling units or univents that are malfunctioning.

In collaboration with Thomas Philbin, the Town's Energy Manager, we evaluated units and selected Mitsubishi brand units that fall in the top 10% of the industry in terms of energy efficiency ratings, and are also known for day-to-day reliability. These units are also essentially the same as other units installed in the administration building.

At the May 8, 2019 Town Meeting, our appropriation was approved along with an amendment specifying that "In all instances whereby the Town will consider installation of new or replacement of existing HVAC systems in all buildings owned by the town, the town will consider a cost/benefit analysis of at least one alternative which involves utilization of renewable energy."

Thomas Philbin has advised us that, to his knowledge, there are no specifically renewable energy air conditioning units that meet our technical specifications for existing classrooms and offices. However, as we install these units we are offsetting any increased energy consumption via a concurrent expansion of our commitment to purchase renewable energy. The installation of the air conditioning units coincides with a new Net Metering Agreement that the Town of Westwood Public Schools have signed with ECA Solar LLC. This agreement allows Westwood to receive 100% of the Net Metering Credits generated by the installation of a new rooftop solar system in Walpole, via Westwood's purchase of 2 million kilowatt hours per year.

We will be mindful to leverage the purchase and/or generation of renewable energy and the use of green construction or sustainable building practices even more so in the MSBA Project that is underway.