

Neary Relocation Proposal

July 2024



"Ten Schools, Three Districts, One Community of Learners"

The Public Schools of Southborough

Objective



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To determine the feasibility of relocating the Neary School during construction from June 2026 - August 2028. The Finn, Woodward, Neary and Trottier School administrations reviewed space allocation, made determinations, and forecasted challenges.

The goals are:

1. Ensure the integrity of the grade-level experience for all students
2. Ensure student safety and minimize the direct impact of construction on students, faculty, and staff
3. Ensure continuity for families and students

*Options Considered**



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Option 1 -

To relocate Grade 4 and Grade 5: Finn - PreK-2, Woodward 3-5, Trottier 6-8

Option 2 -

To relocate Grade 4 and Grade 5: Finn - PreK-1, Woodward 2-4, Trottier 5-8

Option 3 -

Remain at Neary during construction - current grade configuration

***The District will maintain current staffing levels, K-5, in all three options. No positions will be reduced as a result of the relocation.**

Additional Space - Modular



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- Option 1 and Option 2 will require additional instructional space.
- The proposal is to add 4 modular spaces/classrooms
 - 2 to the Finn campus
 - 2 to the Woodward campus
- This will ensure our goals of safety and continuity of experience during the construction phase.

Option 1- Advantages

To relocate Grade 4 and Grade 5:

Finn - PreK-2, Woodward 3-5, Trottier 6-8



Advantages:

- **Increased Access to Site During Construction:** By relocating the grade 4 and grade 5 classrooms to another school, the construction project can proceed more smoothly without having to work around the presence of students. Additionally, by not occupying the Neary Building during construction, allows for **maximum flexibility on where the new building** is sited on the grounds.
- **Decrease the amount of construction time resulting in cost savings.**
- **Improved Safety and Access for Contractors:** With the students off campus, there are fewer safety concerns and fewer logistical obstacles for the construction team.
- **Familiar Environment for Students and Families:** This option allows students to stay in their current school for one additional year, providing a sense of continuity and stability during the transition period.
- **Reduction of campuses** - 2 elementary schools will make logistics easier for families and operations.
- **Meet relocation goals** - Integrity of grade-level experience, Student Safety, and Continuity for students and families.

Option 1- Disadvantages

To displace Grade 4 and Grade 5:

Finn - PreK-2, Woodward 3-5, Trottier 6-8



Disadvantages:

- **Impact on Host School:** The school receiving the students will face challenges such as restricted access to space and scheduling complications (e.g., lunch periods and specialist classes). These disruptions can affect the overall experience for both the students and the faculty, and staff.
- Added transition for Grade 4 - 2026-2027 - by going back to Woodward.
- Logistics and resources to make transition successful.
- Art, music, and world language will take place in the classroom.
- Sharing of office space (i.e. behavior specialists).
- Scheduling complications - using same space for multiple functions - including meetings

Option 2 -

To displace Grade 4 and Grade 5:

Finn - PreK-1, Woodward 2-4, Trottier 5-8



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Advantages:

- **Increased Flexibility During Construction:** Similar to Option 1, relocating the grade 4 and grade 5 classrooms to another school increases the flexibility and efficiency of the construction process.
- **Improved Safety and Access for Contractors:** Having the students off campus enhances safety and makes it easier for contractors to carry out their work.

Disadvantages:

- **Impact on Host School:** The relocation will cause similar challenges for the host school as described in Option 1, including restricted space and scheduling complications.
- **Premature Advancement for Students:** Advancing students, particularly 5th graders, to a new school (Trottier) a year early can be challenging. The developmental levels of fifth graders is significantly different than seventh and eighth graders.

Option 3 -

Remain at Neary during construction - current grade configuration



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Advantages:

- **Continuity of Programming:** The grade configuration will remain the same.
- **No Change in Grade Level Location:** The schedule would remain unchanged.
- **Eliminate Premature Advancement for Students:** In contrast to Option 1 and 2, advancing 5th graders to Trottier a year early could result in challenges for less mature students, potentially impacting their readiness and comfort in a new and potentially more demanding environment.

Disadvantages:

- **Decreased Flexibility During Construction:** By working around a school in session, there will be additional challenges to completing a project safely and timely.
- Decreased options to site the building on the grounds.
- Increased construction costs and duration of overall project.
- Increased distractions with noise to be able to educate students effectively
- **Reduced Access to Outdoor Space and Traffic Impacts:** During construction, students will not have unlimited access to outdoor spaces. Traffic will be impacted by restricted routing and access.
- **Safety and Access for Contractors:** Students as part of a construction site increases safety risks and decreases access for construction crews.

Recommendation



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After an analysis of available space at Finn, Woodward, and Trottier, the recommendation is Option 1, which is to relocate Neary to Finn/Woodward.

It provides the most advantageous pathway to achieve the following goals:

1. Ensure the integrity of the grade-level experience for all students
2. Ensure student safety and minimize the direct impact of construction on students, faculty, and staff
3. Ensure continuity for families and students

Recommendation



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Impacts: The school receiving the students will face challenges such as restricted access to space and scheduling complications (e.g., lunch periods and specialist classes). These disruptions can affect the overall experience for both the students and the faculty, and staff.

- Added transition for Grade 4 - 2026-2027 - by going back to Woodward
- Logistics and resources to make transition successful.
- Lack of space for meetings.
- Art, music, and world language will take place in the classroom.
- Sharing of office space (i.e. behavior specialists).
- Scheduling complications - using same space for multiple functions.

Option 1 is viable solution for a short period of time (two-years). It is not ideal and there are educational implications, as highlighted above.

Enrollment Chart - Option 1 -

Finn - PreK-2, Woodward 3-5, Trottier 6-8

	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
2024-2025	57	117	112	151	123	125	152	132	141	132	
	286			274		277		405			
2025-2026	60	91	117	112	151	123	125	152	132	141	
	268			263		248		425			
MOVE - NEARY OFFLINE DURING CONSTRUCTION											
	Finn				Woodward			Trottier			
2026-2027	60	136	95	117	112	151	123	125	152	132	
	408				386			409			
2027-2028	60	144	142	97	117	112	151	123	125	152	
	443				380			400			
NEW NEARY ONLINE											
	Woodward				Neary			Trottier			
2028-2029	60	154	151	146	97	117	112	151	123	125	
	365				472			399			