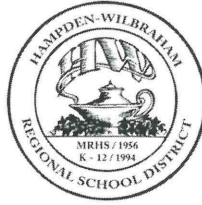


Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District

AARON OSBORNE, MBA, MCPPO
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE,
OPERATIONS AND HUMAN RESOURCES
aosborne@hwrso.org



621 MAIN STREET
WILBRAHAM, MA 01095
TEL. 413-596-3884
FAX: 413-599-1328

August 26, 2022

Carolyn F. Brennan, Chairman
Town of Wilbraham Board of Selectmen
240 Springfield Street
Wilbraham, MA 01095

Dear Chairman Brennan and Selectmen:

We are in receipt of your letter to the HWRSD School Committee dated August 8, 2022 regarding the situation with the lighting at Minnechaug Regional High School. Please recognize that we fully understand the optics around the cost of keeping these lights on as it relates to taxpayer dollars and the money we are spending to do so. Unfortunately, there are limited options available to us due to the proprietary nature of the lighting system and how it operates via an automatic light management system. are limiting.

Last year, at approximately this time, the lighting system failed and as a safety measure, the default position is to be on at all times and there is no manageable means of overriding this without taking other essential systems offline as well. Our first effort was to reach out to the original installer of the system which it turns out had been sold multiple times in the 10+ years since MRHS was built. When we finally reached the new parent company, it took great effort to find someone in the organization that was even familiar with the MRHS system. After many weeks of effort, we were provided a rough estimate in excess of \$1.2 Million to comparably replace the entire system which would need to be done as a summer project given the scope and impact.

Our next effort was to engage a software consultant to explore whether it was possible to patch the system and/or code some ability to override the always on failure default with a simple timer or on/off switch of some sort. This was eventually deemed not possible and the district moved on to looking at physical solutions that would retain some of the energy saving intent of the original lighting management system. The district engaged electrical engineers with the new parent company to help in this process and a reasonable solution was identified using a "piecemeal" approach that would replace the existing server, lighting control boards, and selected peripheral hardware. Given the timing and uncertainty, this did not make the capital planning process, however we knew we could draw from some of our ESSER funding that had been allocated for school systems improvements if needed.

Orders went out for the equipment and materials by November of 2021 and we engaged a local electrical contractor to do the work. The main server arrived relatively on schedule by March, however the

In pursuit of educational excellence, the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District envisions an interactive learning community of creative, passionate thinkers in a safe and healthy environment, embracing opportunities to contribute to and compete in a global society while valuing honesty, integrity, responsibility, and respect for each individual.

remaining equipment has been backordered multiple times. The latest delivery date of August 19, 2022 was missed and a new date of October 14, 2022 has been provided; while we are hopeful this will be met, we are of course skeptical. The reality is that this is typical of many orders we have placed in the past year due to supply chain disruptions and chip shortages worldwide. Unfortunately, there are no realistic alternatives to waiting for the products to arrive that would be cost effective or arrive on any more favorable timeline. In fact, it is likely that we could have accepted the \$1.2 Million estimate originally provided and still not be able to do this work before next (2023) summer at this point.

So, for now, the lights are stuck on and while it incurs some degree of added cost, the lights all utilize highly efficient fluorescent and LED bulbs, we shut off a number of breakers daily for exterior lights, and have manually removed many bulbs and fixtures from classrooms. As always, we are happy to answer specific questions and should the town wish to examine the system and offer their own assessment of options, we are happy to consider those.

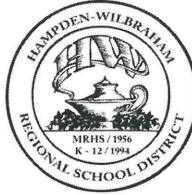
Regards,

John Provost
Superintendent of Schools

Aaron Osborne
Assistant Superintendent

Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District

AARON OSBORNE, MBA, MCPPO
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE,
OPERATIONS AND HUMAN RESOURCES
aosborne@hwrdsd.org



621 MAIN STREET
WILBRAHAM, MA 01095
TEL. 413-596-3884
FAX: 413-599-1328

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 3, 2023

From: Aaron Osborne, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations, & Human Resources

To: Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee

Re: MRHS Lighting

This memo serves as an update to the MRHS lighting project. As you may be aware, the final lighting system transition did not happen over break as expected because our vendor contacted us on the last day school was in session to reschedule the transition work. At this time, we continue efforts to lock in a new date with the vendor, Reflex Lighting (the new final owner of the 5th Light product) and are pursuing all available options for recourse. Unfortunately, because this remains a proprietary system, no other vendor can complete this work.

This was surprising and disappointing to us; we had this date locked with Reflex since October. It was only in the last few weeks where Mike Messier was failing to receive confirmations from Reflex and began imploring Cooper Lighting (who initially bought 5th Light, and has since been bought by Reflex), and HZ Lighting (the distributor) to help resolve the situation. In the end, we finally received confirmation from Reflex on December 22 that they would not be completing the work over December break and would work to reschedule in January.

Our understanding of the work to be done is that it will take 3 consecutive working days to complete, which was our rationale for selecting the December break period. At this point, we will implore Reflex to consider doing this work on an expanded schedule over a weekend if possible and include the MLK Day long weekend as an option. Otherwise, we may be looking towards February break at this time.

As above, we will surely pursue any recourse possible, however or priority remains getting the work completed at this time rather than doing anything that might delay the completion timeline.

Recommendation:

This memo is for informational purposes only, therefore there is no recommended action.