



Lexington Public Schools

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Our Schools

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Paul B. Ash, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

Pat Goddard, our new Director of Public Facilities, knows Lexington. He's lived here with his wife Michelle since 1987, and it is my pleasure to welcome him into his new position overseeing both our school and municipal buildings. He and his team will be responsible for custodial services, building maintenance, the initiation of capital projects, and day-to-day project management for new construction and major renovations. Mr. Goddard will attend to approximately 1.25 million square feet of space that Lexingtonians rely on every day: our school buildings, senior center, library, fire department, police station, town hall, and other town buildings.

Town Meeting ratified the agreement between the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee that merged school and municipal facilities management in order to leverage expertise across both and reap scale and cost efficiencies. Town Manager Carl Valente and I share joint responsibility for the department's operation, and Mr. Goddard reports to both of us.

The town-wide position replaces the school Director of Facilities position recently vacated when Bill Hartigan took a similar job with Providence College. The School Facilities Department also becomes town-wide, and Mr. Goddard will draw heavily on the strengths and experience of that team, which includes Assistant Director of Facilities, Shawn Newell; Assistant Director of Custodial Services, Bob Martin; Facilities Manager, Lisa McGuire; and Administrative Assistant, Christine Pawlak.

Mr. Goddard received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University (where he met his wife Michelle) and a Master's in Business Administration from Rutgers University. In addition, Mr. Goddard brings considerable experience in engineering and operations management from prior positions with Tootsie Roll, Wyeth Research, and Raytheon, where he variously worked on physical plant management, energy conservation, capital planning, and construction management.

With this experience, he has already begun addressing priority projects, such as phase I conversion of the heating at Clarke Middle School from expensive electric heat to more efficient natural gas. He will also carry forward the preventive maintenance program for new and newly renovated schools that was approved by the voters in the 2006 override. Mr. Goddard has been meeting with the key stakeholders in each municipal and school building to review conditions. The overarching mission in Mr. Goddard's work for our schools and students is to assure that all educational space is safe and conducive to learning.

While the Facilities Department concerns itself primarily with the health and welfare of municipal and school buildings, the Department of Public Works provides stewardship of Lexington's exterior spaces—our streets, sidewalks, parks, and school playing fields. The DPW is under Director Bill Hadley, who reports directly to the Town Manager. Mr. Goddard will work closely with Mr. Hadley, for example, to ensure public access to school and municipal buildings during winter storms.

They will also be collaborating on the construction of the new DPW facility. For example, Mr. Goddard's group will soon hire a Clerk of the Works, who will be responsible for monitoring quality and adherence to specifications during the construction of the new facility. In this way, the Facilities Department will provide the day-to-day representation for the Permanent Building Committee, the volunteer group of Lexington architects and construction professionals. The PBC is charged with the overall responsibility for the new building, including turning user requirements into project and bid specifications, hiring the architects, qualifying and hiring contractors, monitoring the major aspects of the developing project, and authorizing progress payments.

The DPW facility represents a significant town investment, and the Facilities Department is well positioned to provide day-to-day monitoring so the new facility will meet specifications and be ready for occupancy and proper, efficient operation.

Like many of us, Mr. Goddard is also a true Red Sox fan. This past spring, he gave his 2007 LHS graduate, Megan, Red Sox tickets in the monster seat section as a graduation present. His son, Michael, a sophomore, will have to wait his turn.

Mr. Goddard tells me he takes lessons from his favorite team and plans on employing a winning combination of skill and team building. He considers himself a steward of Lexington's buildings and its occupants, which include adults, children, Red Sox, and even Yankee fans alike. Please join me in welcoming Pat Goddard to his new position as Director of Public Facilities.