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## Memorandum

To: ESUMS PTO  
From: William F. Clark  
Date: April 19, 2011  
Re: Construction Project Update

The New Haven Board of Education and Gilbane continue to work diligently on the School Construction project for ESUMS. A series of meetings have been hosted by the Architect (Svigals & Partners) with officials from West Haven including City Council, Mayor's Office, Board of Education and Zoning as well as the University of New Haven. The purpose of these meetings has been to determine the best available site and move the project forward in a collaborative and efficient manner.

The preferred site is adjacent to the University. Unfortunately this site may not be feasible due to the inability to lock in the purchase of all parcels and the City of West Haven's unwillingness to exercise Eminent Domain on our behalf. While we continue to seek amicable resolution of acquisition of the preferred site we have widened our search to include additional sites. All sites under consideration are either on, adjacent to or within close proximity to UNH. The Board of Education has approved contracts to perform appraisals of all sites under consideration in order to allow us to move forward with negotiations and acquisition of one of the sites which will allow the project to move to the next phase of construction.

While the site process has continued the Board of Education has also approved the planning and programming aspects of the school to move forward as well (deciding what spaces will be in the school, how large they will be, and what they may look like). This work will be coordinated by the Architect and Gilbane and will involve other consultants, administration, staff, parents and students. The goal of this phase of the process is to develop the best plan for the school before the Architect prepares the actual design. Thus, the programmatic decisions will help drive the design decisions.

Once the site is determined and the programming is complete the development of the schematic plans will commence and the project will move forward with design and construction. The plan

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is to have work started on an approved site by early next year with occupancy of the school expected no later than 2014.

With respect to the swing space issue, the Board has determined that it is not in the best interest of the program to remain in the current space as it cannot accommodate the planned growth of the school over the next two years. As such I have been searching for an alternate location which can accommodate the school and its growth until the permanent location is constructed. We have found an acceptable location on the Boulevard in New Haven where we will assume the lease of another school that no longer has use of the space. The increased square footage of this location will allow for the natural planned growth of the school to continue and will also provide better space for the school programs.

Per the terms of the agreement that we are negotiating with the other school and the landlord we will be able to occupy the space in the summer and will be able to make some adjustments to the space to better suit the needs of the school for the interim period until the construction of the school is completed.