

MEMORANDUM

To: Belmont School Committee  
From: Thomas S. Kingston, Interim Superintendent  
Date: April 7, 2014



I'm obliged to present on Tuesday night a recommendation about the solar panels project for the Wellington. We have pursued "due diligence," and there may be a prospective company that would wish to visit the site and reenter a proposal. Despite the possibility of a new vendor, I feel compelled to recommend withdrawing our contract with Broadway Electric and any successors for the following reasons:

- 1) Even though the potential vendor may be credible, we would need to protract action once more for the vendor to determine whether or not to proceed.
- 2) I am confident that the Planning Board would wish to review the credentials of a new vendor, and that would necessarily constitute additional delay.
- 3) We are beginning to expend resources for legal and technical consulting fees that we cannot further afford given the potential FY 14 deficit we face.
- 4) In the end, the proposed return on investment right now is not going to offset our projected costs for "due diligence."
- 5) Solar power is the source of energy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and I regret not having been able to bring this project to fruition. However, with a pending application at MSBA, and with a required feasibility study that will be required when funding is finally approved, I believe the Town should plan to install solar panels on a renovated Belmont High School and include such plans in the feasibility work.

I wish to be clear that there is no "blame" to cast for this promising Wellington project to have failed. It might still be possible at a later date to reopen the project if potential responsible vendors appear. Nor would I wish to neglect the possibilities of connecting with solar panel in the years ahead.

Of course, because it authorized us to enter into negotiations for solar paneling, the School Committee has the final say. I would recommend that the Committee vote to withdraw from the contract awarded to Broadway Electric and its successors for solar panels to be installed on the Wellington Elementary School.