

# Executive Summary

Date: December 11, 2018  
To: Seth Morton, Moderator, Representative Town Meeting  
From: Jennifer Chameski, Finance Director  
RE: Appropriation for Board of Education Electrical Panel Upgrade Project

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The Board of Education has requested funding for a wiring and air conditioning project. This project will be requested as a special appropriation. After the end of the fiscal year and the return of unspent funds the Board of Education recognized a need to upgrade electrical panels at Hindley, Holmes and Royle elementary schools. They would like to request an off cycle capital request in order to address the problems prior to the start of the 2019-20 school year.

The information presented in this memo describing the project comes from the Board of Education. Any further information requested on the project, not the funding, should be directed to BOE staff.

Recognizing the need for an accurate cost estimate an electrical engineer was commissioned to present costs associated with the request. At its meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, the Darien Board of Education reviewed the report prepared by Barile, Gallagher & Associates (attached) and narrowed the request down to \$355,000 for the electrical upgrade of the three (3) schools inclusive of the design and engineering fees. This request does not include the acquisition of air conditioners, which will be acquired through the normal budgeting process.

During the prolonged heat wave that extended through the first ten days of school, the absence of air conditioning in so many classrooms at these schools became quite obvious. More than anything else, the fault could be found in the inadequacy of the electrical systems which are 22, 22 and 26 years old. Although the report says that the main distribution boards are in good condition and have the capacity to support the added demand, electrical panels must be added. This involves modification of the main distribution panels and additional wiring.

The Board of Education feels strongly that it is essential that the electrical systems be upgraded so they can adequately handle the addition of air conditioners and the expanded use of electric devices.