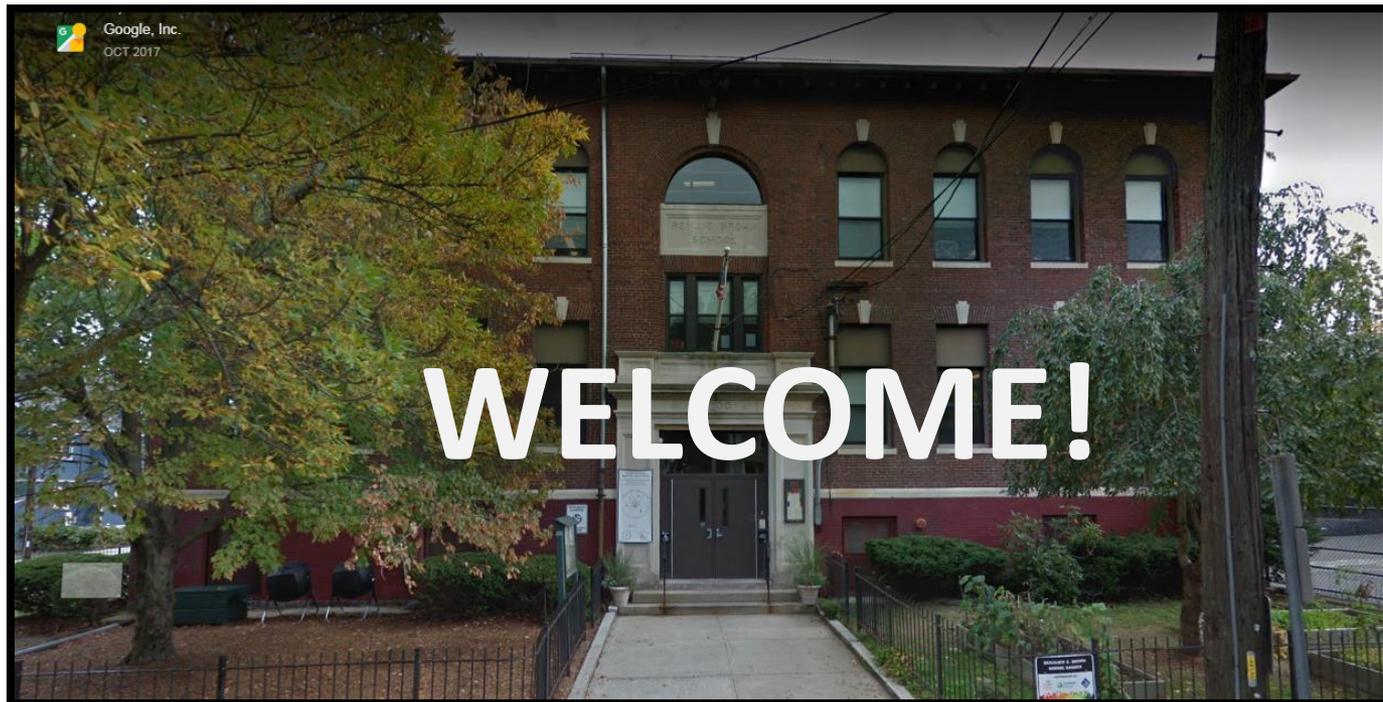




**BENJAMIN G. BROWN SCHOOL (K-5)**  
**Schoolyard Design**  
**Community Meeting No 1.**  
**December 11, 2018**





Please join Ward 6 Alderman Lance Davis, members of the Brown School staff, and the City of Somerville Parks and Open Space Department to discuss renovation ideas for the

# BROWN SCHOOL

## Schoolyard Design - Community Meeting

We want to hear your thoughts and ideas before selecting a landscape architect for the project.

**When:** Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 6:00-7:30pm

**Where:** Brown School, First Floor Classroom, 201 Willow Avenue



For more information, contact Arn Franzen

at: [AFranzen@somervillema.gov](mailto:AFranzen@somervillema.gov)

The City of Somerville is on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)

# Project summary to date:

- Brown School and West Somerville Neighborhood School staff and parents organize to advocate for their schoolyard renovations.
- January 2018: The School Department, and the City Parks and Open Space Department, submit a joint funding request to the Community Preservation Committee to apply for CPA design funds for both schoolyard renovations. Parents and the School Staff speak up in support of the project.
- Spring 2018: CPA Funds are approved.
- Fall 2018: School and City staff meet to discuss the project.

# Next Steps - How will the new playground design be developed?

- An initial community meeting will be held with school faculty, parents, and the neighborhood to gather input and establish the design criteria. (TONIGHT)
- The City will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a Landscape Architecture team. (WINTER 2018/2019)
- Through a series of community meetings held in partnership with the community and the Landscape Architect, the City's Parks and Open Space staff will oversee the design of the schoolyard, ensuring that it is tailored to the needs of the City and the Brown School students and faculty.

# Why is it so important to renovate our schoolyards?

## Research shows:

- Quality schoolyard design and increased access to recreation can benefit children's physical and mental health and their academic performance. Play improves healthy childhood brain development and can lead to better schoolwork among preschool and primary-level students.
- Contact with nature has been tied to health in many studies. Time spent in and around tree-lined streets, parks, and playgrounds is linked to objective, long-term health outcomes including a reduction in depression and anxiety disorder, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), obesity and migraines.

## City of Somerville Planning Objectives:

- The City's Open Space and Recreation Plan prioritizes the need for schoolyard renovations.

# Are there additional benefits for Somerville residents? Yes!

- Once renovated, the schoolyards will serve as public parks and open spaces during non-school hours, and over the summer.
- Schoolyards can provide space for City recreation programming and community events.

Somerville schoolyards which have been renovated in recent years:

- **East Somerville Community School Schoolyard**
- **Capuano Schoolyard**
- **Kennedy School rear tot-lot**
- **Argenziano Schoolyard – as part of Lincoln Park**
- **Winter Hill Schoolyard**

Upcoming schoolyard projects which received CPA design funds, or which are under review for Community Preservation Act funds

**Healey Schoolyard (2017)**

**Brown School Schoolyard (2018)**

**West Somerville Neighborhood School (2018)**

**Kennedy School – Front Schoolyard (currently under review 2019)**

# What are the existing conditions at the Brown Schoolyard?

- The Brown Schoolyard is a large expanse of cracked asphalt, devoid of any features except basketball backboards and painted court games.





# BENJAMIN G. BROWN SCHOOL

## Schoolyard - Existing Conditions



# BENJAMIN G. BROWN SCHOOL Schoolyard - Existing Conditions



What types of features should the Brown School and Schoolyard include?  
What could the schoolyard look like?







# What will be the focus of the new designs?

- Safety and security for all students
- 100% ADA access
- Points of access, connectivity between spaces and the school
- Opportunities for active and passive recreation
- More contact with nature!
- Imaginative, interactive, and age-appropriate play features.
- Outdoor classroom spaces to support teaching and learning.

# Questions:

**What are the needs of the school and the neighborhood?**

**What are your concerns?**

**What are your ideas?**





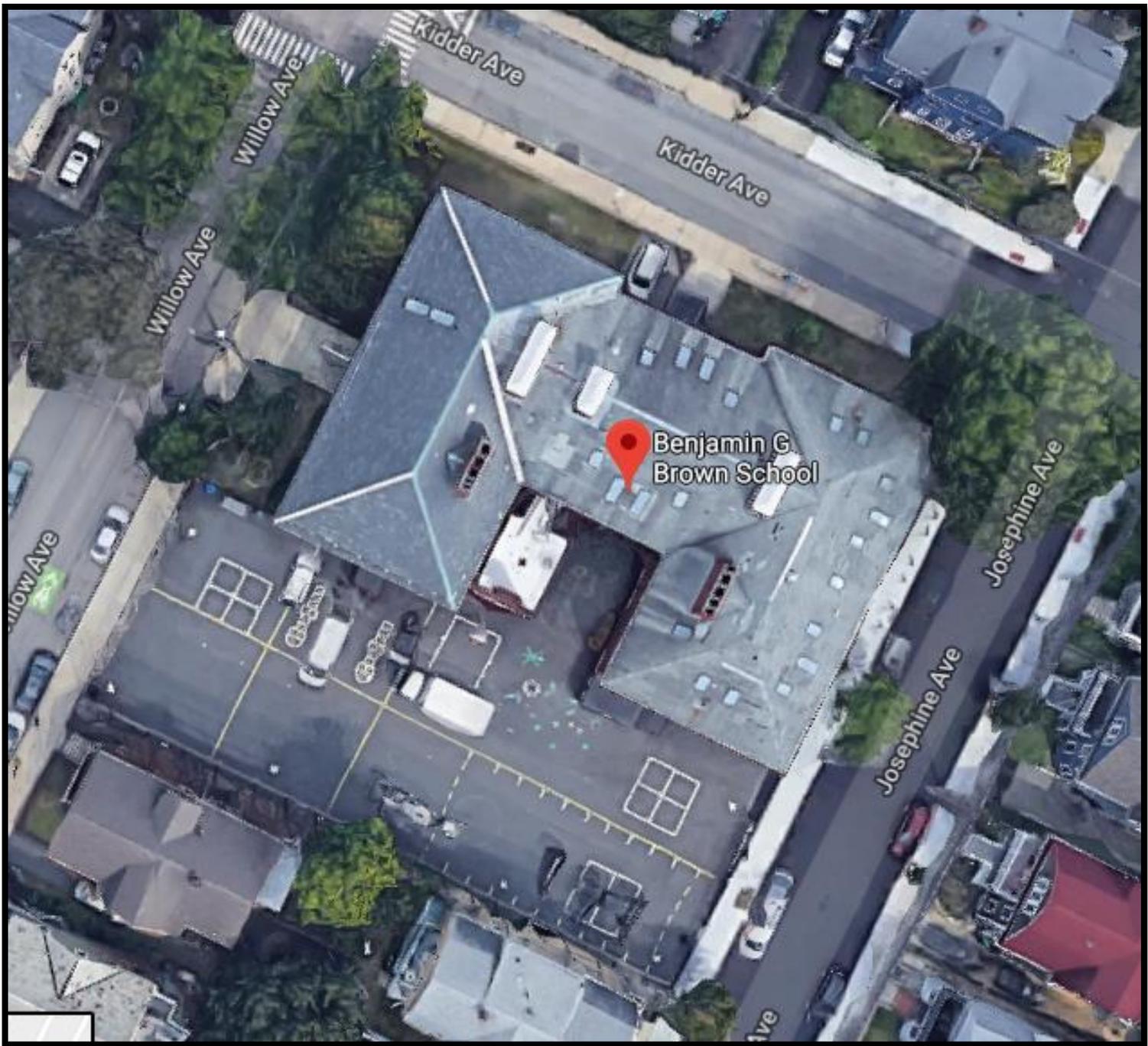
Please be sure to sign the Sign-In Sheet

Questions or comments should be addressed to:

**Arn Franzen**

617.625.6600 x 2545

**[afranzen@somervillema.gov](mailto:afranzen@somervillema.gov)**



Kidder Ave

Kidder Ave

Willow Ave

Benjamin G.  
Brown School

Josephine Ave

Josephine Ave

Willow Ave

Ave

The funding for CPA comes from three sources:

**A 1.5% surcharge on net property taxes.** The first \$100,000 of assessed value is exempt, and qualifying low- and moderate-income households may also apply for an exemption. See [Surcharge Information](#) for details.

**Municipal revenue.** Because Somerville adopted a "blended CPA," the City may choose - though it is not required - to dedicate additional municipal revenue to CPA. The maximum amount the City can contribute in any year is roughly equivalent to the revenue raised by the 1.5% surcharge.

**Distributions from the Commonwealth's Community Preservation Trust Fund.** Distributions match local funding on an annual basis, including surcharge revenue and dedicated municipal revenue. Since FY15, Somerville has received over \$2.5 million from the state match. Communities with local funding equivalent to the maximum 3% surcharge are eligible for an increased match rate.

# Who Supports this Project?

- **Among the WSNS support letters and endorsements forwarded to City Staff and the Board of Alderman are those provided by:**
  - Mayor Joseph A Curtatone
  - Superintendent of Schools Mary Skipper
  - The Somerville School Committee
  - West Somerville School Principal Kathleen Seward
  - The West Somerville Neighborhood School PTA
    - (PTA Produced Video: <https://youtu.be/ecMQoyvnFo4> )
  - The West Somerville Neighborhood School Improvement Council
  - Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Brad Rawson
  - Director of Parks and Open Space Arn Franzen
  - Parents, Children, and Community Members from Ward 6 and 7

# CPC Schoolyard Design Budget Request

CPA approved design funds:

Benjamin G Brown (K-5) : *\$65,000*

West Somerville Neighborhood School (PK-8) *\$75,000*

**\$140,000**