

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 11, 2021
TO: Members of the School Board
VIA: Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
FROM: Cathy Lin, Director, Facilities and Operations

CIP QUESTION: What kind of analysis did the mechanical contractor do? Did they physically look at the systems? Did they review service records/maintenance history? Does this review account for using higher grade filters in the current systems and therefore reducing the lifespan of the system? Please explain the difference between the list of targeted interventions vs the upgrade list from the mechanical contractor and clarify what the recommendations are.

RESPONSE: The engineer reviewed existing documents to determine the issues and concerns at each building. The engineer visited most if not all of the sites to confirm the drawings were current and modified what was not in the existing conditions. From there they developed a proposed solution for each building studied and worked with two cost estimators who were very experienced in HVAC systems to finalize the scope for each building in order to develop realistic estimates.

The engineer also reviewed maintenance history with the HVAC shop in the APS Maintenance Office to identify systems with documented issues and concerns. The engineer included equipment replacements in the scope of work delineated. Three buildings were added to the study due to concerns with their maintenance history.

Higher grade filters have already been provided where possible in existing systems where they would not degrade systems. As noted, the cost has been divided to show one line item to increase fresh air into the buildings to meet the current code and a separate line item for upgrading filtration. In most cases these options are additive except where the fresh air would be coming in through the heating and cooling terminal devices, rather than a dedicated outside air unit. Generally, the filtration options require the replacement of terminal devices to handle the increased levels of filtration without degrading the unit.

Targeted interventions are providing larger HEPA filtration units in the larger spaces of our buildings similar to how the Certified Air Cleaning Devices are working in the classrooms and smaller spaces. The Upgrade list is essentially providing partial or completely new HVAC systems in the identified buildings to provide fresh air systems to meet current codes and standards with recirculating filters at a MERV 13 level.