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City of Northampton Sells Feiker School to Nonotuck Community School, Inc.

Mayor David J. Narkewicz announced today that the City of Northampton has sold a former elementary school property located at 221 Riverside Drive known as the Feiker School to the Nonotuck Community School, a private non-profit early education provider. The one-story 7,093 square foot brick school building on a 1.04 acre lot was built in 1900 and named after Bay State Village resident and former Mayor of Northampton, William H. Feiker. It served as a neighborhood elementary school until the 1970s.

Nonotuck Community School (NCS) began leasing the building from the City of Northampton through the school department in 2005. In October 2016, the Northampton School Committee voted unanimously to surplus the former school so that the Mayor could seek authorization to sell the property at fair market value while ensuring Feiker School's continued long-term use for early childhood education. The Northampton City Council concurred with the School Committee in December 2016, voting to grant the Mayor authorization to sell the property through a Request for Proposals (RFP) bidding process.

The City of Northampton issued an RFP in late 2016 seeking buyers for the property willing to pay a minimum, fair market value bid price of \$290,000 and meet the requirement that Feiker School remain in use as an early childhood education facility for the next 25 years. The RFP also stipulated that any future tax-exempt owner would be required to pay an annual payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) equivalent to 25% of the property taxes that would be owed if the property was not exempt.

Nonotuck Community School, Inc. was the sole bidder on Feiker School when the RFP period closed on January 10, 2017. The longtime preschool provider's \$291,100 purchase proposal was formally accepted by the City of Northampton shortly thereafter and the formal sale closing took place on April 21, 2017.

This week Mayor Narkewicz will seek authorization from the City Council to appropriate both the \$291,100 Feiker School sale proceeds together with \$124,167 remaining in the now-closed Feiker School Rental Revolving Fund and apply all of those funds toward major roof replacement projects at Leeds and Bridge Street elementary schools.

This is the second former school building sold by the City of Northampton during Mayor Narkewicz's tenure. The City utilized a similar RFP bid process in 2013 to sell the former Florence Grammar School property located at 140 Pine Street in Florence.