



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***BART Charter Public School To Host Groundbreaking Ceremony***

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On Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am, BART will ceremonially break ground on their long-planned expansion at One Commercial St. in Adams. This ceremony was previously planned for Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, but was delayed when project bids came in higher than estimated.

“We are thrilled to be moving forward with this project. This expansion is a central component to the growth plan for our school,” said executive director Julia Bowen.

The school spent the last month working to bring the project in on budget. In order to do so, the school has deferred a number of expenses that were previously included, but will be added back in as funds become available. The school has raised close to one million dollars from private donors and foundations, and it plans to continue to fundraise until the project, including the furniture, fixtures and equipment, is completely funded.

“As a public charter school in Massachusetts, we do not receive any public funds from the state or local community for our facilities. We are financing this expansion with donations from generous individuals and foundations, our own reserves, and a commercial bank loan,” explained Bowen. Boston Community Loan Fund (BCLF) is lending the school construction funds for this project. “We are so grateful for all of the people who have made this project possible – people who believe in our students and their success, even if they don’t directly benefit from our programs.”

BART’s expansion will include a stage for theater and other performances, fitness facilities and an area dedicated for meeting and eating. All of these activities currently take place in the school’s central atrium, a space the size of a quarter of a basketball court and not designed for any of those purposes. The expansion also necessitated a few interior renovations, giving the school an opportunity to improve classroom spaces for academic support services, streamline administrative and faculty office spaces and increase school security.

At its meeting on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Trustees voted to approve a construction contract with David J. Tierney, Jr., Inc. from Pittsfield for \$3,888,433. Construction will commence at the end of May, with renovations complete in time for the start of the 2014-2015 school year. The expansion work will last further into the fall.

#### ***About BART***

*BART is a nationally recognized, award-winning, tuition-free public middle and high school focused on preparing students for college. One hundred percent of BART’s graduates have passed a college course and have been accepted into college prior to graduation. BART does not discriminate in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its services, programs or activities, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, homelessness or age.*