

Case Study in Reuse: Tahanto Regional Middle/High School, Massachusetts



Overview: The Berlin-Boylston Regional School District (Mass.) moved into a new middle/high School in midwinter. The surplus furnishings and equipment from the old school were offered to other schools and municipal departments and to the local communities. After this, there remained about 1,200 surplus items. Just days before the building needed to be emptied so abatement could begin, the District heard about IRN's Surplus Program, and made the decision that reuse was preferable to destroying and disposing of the remaining surplus.

Project Team

With less than a week's lead time, this reuse project came together only because it received the unified support and teamwork of all of the parties involved in design and construction of the new school:

The Berlin-Boylston Regional School District. Superintendent Nadine Ekstrom Principal Diane Tucceri, and Building Committee Chair Dean Polnerow made the decision that discarding the remaining surplus should be avoided if at all possible.

PMA Consultants. The District's Project Manager for the construction project, PMA's Deborah Shaer, took the initiative to introduce IRN's Surplus Program to the District, advocate for reuse, and manage the project to completion.

HMFH Architects, Construction Administration Architect Alan Pemstein. Sustainable design and materials were integral to HMFH's plans for the school, and Mr. Pemstein advocated for reuse as a logical extension of this design philosophy.

CTA Construction Company, Project Manager Jim Goulet. CTA offered their wholehearted support to this environmentally and socially valuable project.

Critical Issue: Schedule

In a span of just 72 hours, IRN and PMA developed a scope of services, agreed on a cost proposal, and negotiated and signed a contract to ensure the reuse project could move forward smoothly and be completed without delaying the overall construction contract schedule.

Moving and loading: IRN secured New England Office Connection to visit the site, prepare the moving plan and budget, and set up the moving crew.

Recipient and shipping: Charitable partner Food for the Poor identified a recipient school in Jamaica and secured shipping containers – a process that normally requires a week or more.

Budget: PMA, CTA, the District, and the Building Committee developed and agreed upon a cost-sharing agreement for this solution to removing usable surplus from the existing Tahanto school.

IRN – The Reuse Network

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Composition

Bookcases	26	Storage Cabinets	20
Books (Gaylord boxes)	13	File Cabinets	47
AV Equipment	9	Tables	144
Chairs, Tablet Arm	132	Other including gym equipmt, kitchen equipmt, musical instruments, etc.	48
Chairs, Other	537		
Desks	151	Total	1,127

Destination

IRN’s charitable partner Food For The Poor matched the Tahanto Middle/High School inventory with St. Georges College in Jamaica, a Grade 1 through 12 school serving an impoverished neighborhood in Kingston. Tahanto’s surplus will be used to outfit a new science building at the school, which is nearly complete but was without a source of furnishings. The Tahanto surplus made a major contribution to Food For The Poor’s “50 Schools in 50 Months” initiative in Jamaica.

Gallery

