

IRN - The Reuse Network

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Case Study in Reuse Town of Saugus, MA, Middle and High School

Overview

Founded in 1629 six miles from Boston, Saugus is one of the oldest towns in the United States. The town approved a plan to consolidate its grades 5-8 middle school and grades 9-12 high school into a newly-constructed middle/high school. With nearly all new furnishings installed in the middle/high school, there were more than 5,000 pieces left behind in the two older schools.

Project management firm PMA Consultants has worked with IRN on several projects spanning a half-dozen years. PMA Project Manager Deborah Shaer engaged IRN to handle all aspects of removing, loading, placing, and shipping the Saugus school furnishings for reuse.

Composition

Item	Saugus High School	Belmonte Middle School	Total
Desk, Student Combo	982	946	1,928
Desk, Other	85	100	185
Table, Work/Activity	279	187	466
Table, Science	65	92	157
Table, Other	4	50	54
Chair, Student	789	490	1,279
Chair, Other	20	114	134
Chair, Side/Guest	86	52	138
Chair, Stacking		101	101
Chair, Task	64	34	98
Stool	88	34	122
Bookcase	48	56	104
Storage Cabinet	17	38	55
File Cabinet	61	144	205
Other	65	107	172
Total	2,653	2,545	5,198

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Implementation

The two phases of the project took place about a month apart – the high school in May, the middle school a month later. At both sites, IRN had to contend with cramped project sites, contractor, staff and student vehicles, and Boston’s notoriously confused roads and chaotic traffic.

Emptying the two schools unfolded very differently. The high school cleanout was scheduled well in advance, giving IRN ample time to plan and coordinate the project. All of the high school furniture went to a single charity and destination, so it didn’t matter which furnishings went onto any given trailer.

At the middle school, for various reasons the schedule was much compressed, and IRN had to react quickly to schedule labor and coordinate loading a dozen tractor-trailers. These shipments were divided among five different destinations, so IRN had to pay careful attention to each load, assuring that the shipments matched the recipients’ needs. At the same time, IRN was on an inflexible timeline to empty the building so that abatement and demolition could start on schedule.

In the end, all the kinks worked out, the shipments flowed, and IRN was in and out of both schools on time and budget.

Destinations

International shipments are packed in 40-foot ocean containers. These are trucked from IRN’s project site to a container port – in this case Boston – and loaded onto a scheduled ship. They are unloaded again at a destination port city, placed onto another trailer chassis, and pulled by truck to their final recipients. U.S. shipments are packed in 53-foot trailers and pulled nonstop to their recipients. In all cases, IRN’s goal is to handle each item only once, and to pack each trailer with as much as it can possibly hold, in order to minimize cost and maximize the quantity shipped per dollar spent.

Origin / Destination	Trailers	Pieces
Saugus High School		<input type="text" value="1"/>
Haiti	12	2,653
Belmonte Middle School		
Indiana	1	232
South Dakota	1	312
Bahamas	2	445
Jamaica	5	1,054
Pakistan	2	496
Total	23	5,198



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