

Massachusetts School Building Authority

Steven Grossman
Chairman, State Treasurer

Katherine P. Craven
Executive Director



June 16, 2011

Dr. John E. Phelan, Superintendent
Hopkinton Public Schools
89 Hayden Rowe Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748

JUN 27 PM 2:30
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
HOPKINTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RE: Hopkinton Public Schools, Center Elementary School Project

Dear Superintendent Phelan:

The Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA") is issuing this letter in response to the Town of Hopkinton's (the "District") recent inquiry as to whether the MSBA would recommend additional steps beyond those identified by the District in its letter dated March 31, 2011.

In its letter, which was sent in response to the MSBA's failed vote policy, the District stated that at least three factors (grade configuration, Fruit Street location and economics) contributed to the Center Elementary School Project not passing at either the Special Town Meeting on March 21, 2011 or the Special Election on March 28, 2011. The letter further states that the District plans to conduct public forums and listening sessions to better understand the community's priorities specific to a project addressing the needs at the Center School. From the information presented, the MSBA understands that the District plans to develop a more detailed timeline and process for building consensus during the next six months and provide the MSBA with an update on the District's progress by May 31, 2011.

The MSBA appreciates the challenges that school districts face, but the MSBA's regulations specifically include the 120-day deadline for a local appropriation to ensure that the MSBA's capital program funds are targeted toward projects and school districts that are ready and able to make the financial commitment and move forward in a timely manner. Given the overwhelming capital needs of school districts across the Commonwealth and the MSBA's limited capital program funds, the MSBA cannot indefinitely tie up funds allocated for a project that lacks local support.

In order to re-enter the MSBA's Capital Pipeline, the District must be able to demonstrate the community's consensus for a proposed project at the Center School. Depending on the outcome of the District's community outreach, the District will need to take one of the following steps.

A. If the District determines as a result of its community outreach *that a different project* from the one proposed and reviewed by the MSBA is the preferred direction, the District will have to submit a new Statement of Interest and await a second invitation from the MSBA to enter the feasibility study phase of the MSBA's process. If the MSBA Board of Directors were to issue such a second invitation, the MSBA would require the District:

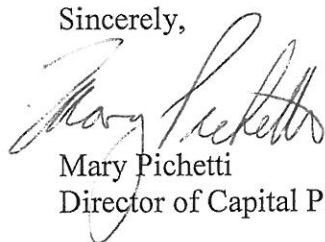
- to start the process anew, with new selection processes for an owner's project manager and designer as well as a new feasibility study; and
- to perform a new feasibility study and schematic design for the Center Elementary School without financial participation from the MSBA for these phases of the work.

B. If the District determines as a result of its community outreach *that the same project* as proposed and reviewed by the MSBA is the preferred direction, the District must demonstrate local support by obtaining voter approval of the project with the defined scope and budget at a town election, by no later than March 28, 2012. Given the concerns raised by the MSBA during the schematic design review as well as the District's statement that the community had concerns regarding the project's cost and site location, the MSBA strongly advises that the District review the project to ensure that it is in fact the most educationally appropriate and cost-effective project. The MSBA will assist in developing the appropriate language for the ballot question and for any necessary Town Meeting articles, warrants, motions, votes and orders.

- If the voters approve such a proposed project at the election, then MSBA staff would prepare a recommendation to its Board of Directors requesting authorization to reactivate the Statement of Interest for the Center Elementary School project.
- If the District successfully reactivates its Statement of Interest and the MSBA's Board of Directors affirmatively votes to reconsider the proposed project, the District will re-enter the Capital Pipeline at the Project Scope and Budget phase. All work that the District and the MSBA have undertaken to date, including the feasibility study, would be retained through this one-year period and would form the basis of any potential project at the Center Elementary School.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 617-720-4466.

Sincerely,



Mary Pichetti
Director of Capital Planning

Cc: Senator Karen E. Spilka
Representative Carolyn Dykema
Todd Cestari, Chair, Hopkinton Board of Selectmen
Norman Khumalo, Town Manager
Rebecca Robak, Chair, Hopkinton School Committee
Brian Main, Owner's Project Manager
Dave Finney, Designer, Design Partnership of Cambridge
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