

Massachusetts School Building Authority

Timothy P. Cahill
Chairman, State Treasurer

Katherine P. Craven
Executive Director

November 19, 2009

George Frost, Superintendent
Ayer Public Schools
Washington Street
Ayer, MA 01432

Malcolm Reid, Superintendent
Shirley Public Schools
34 Lancaster Road
Shirley, MA 01434

Re: Ayer Middle and High School.

Dear Superintendent Frost and Superintendent Reid:

I am pleased to report that the Board of the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA") voted to invite the Towns of Ayer and Shirley to collaborate with the MSBA in conducting a Feasibility Study, subject to intensive pre-feasibility scoping which shall include a full vetting of all regionalization issues, for a newly formed Regional School District of Ayer/Shirley.

I do want to emphasize that this invitation to collaborate on a Feasibility Study is *not* approval of a project, but is strictly an invitation to your school districts to work with the MSBA to explore potential solutions to the problems that have been identified. Moving forward in the MSBA's process requires collaboration with the MSBA, and communities that "get ahead" of the MSBA without MSBA approval will not be eligible for grant funding. To qualify for any funding from the MSBA, local communities must follow the MSBA's statute and regulations, which require MSBA collaboration and approval at each step of the process.

During the Feasibility Study phase, the school district and the MSBA will collaborate to find the most fiscally responsible and educationally appropriate solution to the problems identified at the Ayer Middle and High School. The Feasibility Study, which will be conducted pursuant to the MSBA's regulations, will commence with the pre-feasibility scoping agreement noted above and will require that each District complete a number of pre-requisites prior to executing a Feasibility Study Agreement with the MSBA. These

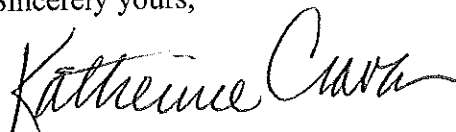
pre-requisites include the Districts and/or the newly formed Regional School District (RSD) submitting the following information to the MSBA:

- a written schedule outlining the projected timeline for the regionalization process, including the DESE approval, town forums, town votes, finalization of the regionalization agreement and establishment of the Eligible Applicant and School Building Committee members for the RSD. The information that you provided at our meeting on November 13, 2009 was helpful in informing the MSBA of the process to finalize the agreement for the proposed new regional school district combining the middle and high schools for the Districts of Ayer and Shirley, but a updated timeline would be helpful in planning for this initial period;
- a preliminary overview of available or projected local funding for any proposed project;
- a current routine and capital maintenance plan for its school facilities;
- an operational budget statement to the MSBA for its review;
- the enrollment data required to complete the MSBA's enrollment tool, and the RSD and the MSBA must discuss and agree on a design enrollment;
- a district-wide capacity analysis for both Ayer and Shirley that will allow the MSBA to perform a capacity analysis for all schools in both districts;
- an Initial Compliance Certificate executed by the RSD, to ensure that the RSD understands and will comply with the MSBA's requirements and regulations; and
- the School Building Committee form completed by the RSD and submitted it to the MSBA for approval;

We will be contacting you soon to discuss these next steps in more detail. Once these initial steps have been completed, the MSBA and the District will then work on procuring the project management and design professionals which will help bring the District's feasibility study to fruition.

As evidenced by the invitation from the Board of Directors, the MSBA is committed to working with the Districts during this transition period and looks forward to continuing the work of the feasibility study with the established representatives of the newly formed regional district. As always, feel free to contact me or my staff at (617) 720-4466 should you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Katherine Craven
Executive Director

Cc: Senator James Eldridge
Representative Robert Hargraves
Representative Jennifer Benson
Daniel W. Gleason, Chair, Ayer School Committee
David Baumritter, Chair, Shirley School Committee
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