



Massachusetts School Building Authority

Deborah B. Goldberg
Chairman, State Treasurer

James A. MacDonald
Chief Executive Officer

John K. McCarthy
Executive Director / Deputy CEO

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor
City of Holyoke
Holyoke City Hall, Room 1
536 Dwight Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Re: City of Holyoke, William R. Peck School

Dear Mayor Garcia:

I am pleased to report that the Board of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the “MSBA”) has voted to approve the City of Holyoke (the “District”) to partner with the MSBA in conducting a Feasibility Study for the William R. Peck School, and has further voted, as part of its invitation for Feasibility Study, to proceed into Schematic Design to replace the existing William R. Peck School with a new facility serving grades 6-8 on the existing site (the “proposed project”), contingent upon the District meeting the conditions as detailed below:

The District must update its educational plan, submit it for review by the MSBA and present it to the MSBA Facilities Assessment Subcommittee prior to initiating the process of reviewing available model school designs.

- The City Council must submit vote language for the MSBA’s concurrence prior to voting and vote in the affirmative on the following:
 - The City Council agrees to proceed based on its previously completed Feasibility Study submittal dated July 11, 2018, accepting the District’s conclusion to proceed with new construction and not further pursue an addition/renovation option at the William R. Peck School.
 - The City Council plans to proceed utilizing the consultants procured during the previous Statement of Interest in accordance with the letter from the Attorney General’s office dated February 10, 2021, unless it selects a model school designer.

The City Council agrees to request the MSBA to invite the District to use the MSBA’s Model School Program.

- The District will work with the MSBA to understand what items are required to be submitted to the MSBA to support initiation of the Model School Program and/or continuation of the original design, including but not limited to the updated educational plan, an updated space summary and local actions and approvals form. These items will be voted and approved by the School Building Committee in accordance with the submittal requirements of the MSBA’s Module 3.
- The District’s request to proceed into Schematic Design for the William R. Peck School, based on the previously approved project scope and budget for two schools, continues to

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Holyoke, William R. Peck School Preferred Schematic Board Action Letter

support its overall goal to transition from a K-8 school district as part of the Level 5 Turnaround Plan in a manner that is reported to be more affordable by the City of Holyoke.

Prior to the submission of the District's Schematic Design submittal, the MSBA has requested that the District be available to present progress of the preferred schematic to the Facilities Assessment Subcommittee, should the MSBA determine that such a presentation is required. This presentation would ensure a mutual understanding and agreement of the proposed concept and ensure that the proposed scope will be reflected in the District's Schematic Design submittal.

- The preferred schematic includes a grade configuration, existing school use and redistribution of its middle school students across the District. As a condition of the MSBA's approval of the District's proposed project scope and budget, the District will be required to submit a draft redistricting plan as part of its Schematic Design submittal.

We will be contacting you soon to discuss these next steps in more detail, but in the meantime, I wanted to share with you the Board's vote to approve the City of Holyoke to proceed into Schematic Design to replace the existing William R. Peck School with a new facility serving grades 6-8 on the existing site (the "proposed project"), contingent upon the District meeting the conditions as detailed above.

I look forward to continuing to work with you as the MSBA's grant program progresses. As always, feel free to contact me or my staff at (617) 720-4466 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John K. McCarthy
Executive Director

Cc: Legislative Delegation
Todd McGee, President, Holyoke City Council
Mildred Lefebvre, Vice-Chair, Holyoke School Committee
Anthony Soto, Superintendent/Receiver, Holyoke Public Schools
Erin Linville, Chief of Strategy and Turnaround, Holyoke Public Schools
Whitney Anderson, Maintenance Administrator, Holyoke Public Schools
File: 10.2 Letters (Region 1)