

School District Andover

District Contact Paul Szymanski TEL: (978) 247-7070

Name of School West Elementary

Submission Date 4/6/2017

SOI CERTIFICATION

To be eligible to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI), a district must certify the following:

- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges and agrees that this SOI is NOT an application for funding and that submission of this SOI in no way commits the MSBA to accept an application, approve an application, provide a grant or any other type of funding, or places any other obligation on the MSBA.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that no district shall have any entitlement to funds from the MSBA, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B or the provisions of 963 CMR 2.00.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that the provisions of 963 CMR 2.00 shall apply to the district and all projects for which the district is seeking and/or receiving funds for any portion of a municipally-owned or regionally-owned school facility from the MSBA pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that this SOI is for one existing municipally-owned or regionally-owned public school facility in the district that is currently used or will be used to educate public PreK-12 students and that the facility for which the SOI is being submitted does not serve a solely early childhood or Pre-K student population.
- ☒ After the district completes and submits this SOI electronically, the district must sign the required certifications and submit one signed original hard copy of the SOI to the MSBA, with all of the required documentation described under the "Vote" tab, on or before the deadline.
- ☒ The district will schedule and hold a meeting at which the School Committee will vote, using the specific language contained in the "Vote" tab, to authorize the submission of this SOI. This is required for cities, towns, and regional school districts.
- ☒ Prior to the submission of the hard copy of the SOI, the district will schedule and hold a meeting at which the City Council/Board of Aldermen or Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body will vote, using the specific language contained in the "Vote" tab, to authorize the submission of this SOI. This is not required for regional school districts.
- ☒ On or before the SOI deadline, the district will submit the minutes of the meeting at which the School Committee votes to authorize the Superintendent to submit this SOI. The District will use the MSBA's vote template and the vote will specifically reference the school and the priorities for which the SOI is being submitted. The minutes will be signed by the School Committee Chair. This is required for cities, towns, and regional school districts.
- ☒ The district has arranged with the City/Town Clerk to certify the vote of the City Council/Board of Aldermen or Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body to authorize the Superintendent to submit this SOI. The district will use the MSBA's vote template and submit the full text of this vote, which will specifically reference the school and the priorities for which the SOI is being submitted, to the MSBA on or before the SOI deadline. This is not required for regional school districts.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that this SOI submission will not be complete until the MSBA has received all of the required vote documentation and certification signatures in a format acceptable to the MSBA. If Priority I is selected, your Statement of Interest will not be considered complete unless and until you provide the required engineering (or other) report, a professional opinion regarding the problem, and photographs of the problematic area or system.

Chief Executive Officer *

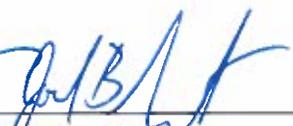
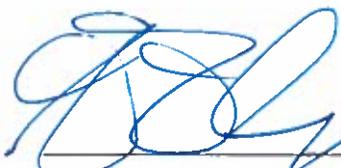
School Committee Chair

Superintendent of Schools

Andrew P. Flanagan

Joel G. Blumstein, Esq.

Sheldon H. Berman, Ed.D.



(signature)

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Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 27, 2017, prior to the closing date, the Board of Selectmen of Andover MA., in accordance in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent, Sheldon H. Berman, Ed.D, to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 6, 2017 for the West Elementary School located at 58 Beacon St, Andover, MA 01810, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

In summary, the students attending West Elementary are receiving less than the education they deserve because the building has health and safety issues (lead and CO²); is severely overcrowded, especially given its special populations, and its enrollment is projected to increase; and its physical design and amenities are so outdated that its students are unable to benefit from the 21st century educational programming that its teachers long to provide and that its parents have a right to expect.

Priority No. 1. Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.

The school has two major conditions jeopardizing children's health: high levels of lead in the water and high levels of carbon dioxide (CO²) in the air. Tests in February 2017 by the Department of Municipal Services of Andover, Massachusetts revealed that the school's water exceeded the maximum allowable levels of lead, so sections of pipe and a drinking fountain were immediately replaced. Follow-up tests in March indicated that not only were the lead levels still above the maximum allowed. Accessing and replacing quantities of buried pipes is not feasible. In addition, tests performed in response to staff complaints about air quality revealed high levels of CO² based on ASHRAE and OSHA standards; these CO² levels are believed to be contributing to a high rate of absences.

Priority No. 2. Elimination of existing severe overcrowding.

West Elementary's overcrowding is the result of: a) high enrollment that exceeds physical capacity, and b) large numbers of special needs students whose IEP programming requires particular uses of space, including 1:1 instruction. At West, 21 percent of students are in special education; the services we can provide are constrained by the lack of flexible space for both instruction and the storage of individualized materials, leaving some students to be served in hallways with multiple distractions and no privacy (both of which hinder learning progress) or in closets with inadequate lighting and ventilation. Two classes of regular education students and teachers sometimes must share the same room, and there is no suitable space for OT/PT services.

Priority No 4. Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments.

Some programs and students that would normally be placed at West have already been relocated or directed to other schools, but the overcrowded conditions continue and neighboring schools cannot accept more transfers without incurring similar problems. Enrollment projections provided by the Massachusetts School Building Authority and by MGT's facility planning study—both for West Elementary and for Andover Public Schools as a whole—show a steady increase through 2026. Older residents are selling their homes to families with young children and a number of apartment and housing developments are in the construction or planning stages. The English Language Learner (ELL) population at West has doubled in three years and has increased three-fold in the district over five years, with the majority of students being in grades K-3, while the district's special education population has increased by 17 percent in the past decade. West Elementary and other district schools will need additional small group spaces to provide individual and small group instruction, as well as larger classrooms that accommodate inclusion of students in the regular classroom along with the adults who provide their support services.

Priority No 7. Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.

West Elementary School was built in 1951, added to in 1968, and is now past its functional life. In addition to the health, safety, space, and programming issues cited above, the location of the main office and administrative offices in the building's interior compromises access control and the ability of security to deal with intruders. Of particular concern, the facility is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Classrooms in the 1968 addition were designed in an open-school concept, adding to the staff's inability to appropriately serve the students assigned to regular as well as SPED and ELL programs. Even basic amenities are inadequate; for example, 110 boys in the grades 2-3 pod have access to only one toilet, and rooms lack enough electrical outlets to take advantage of otherwise available technology. Some students who need remedial services are turned away because of space limitations. Our mandated programs in physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, reading services, guidance, and school nursing are all suffering from the limitations imposed by this outdated facility,

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CERTIFICATIONS

The undersigned hereby certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief, the statements and information contained in this statement of Interest and attached hereto are true and accurate and that this Statement of Interest has been prepared under the direction of the district school committee and the undersigned is duly authorized to submit this Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The undersigned also hereby acknowledges and agrees to provide the Massachusetts School Building Authority, upon request by the Authority, any additional information relating to this Statement of Interest that may be required by the Authority.

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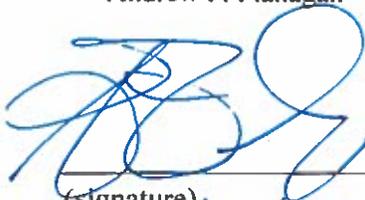
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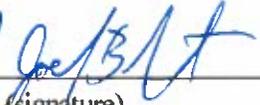
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(signature)

Date

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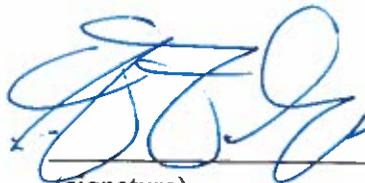
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April 4, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

The Town of Andover Board of Selectmen, at their Regular Meeting on March 27, 2017, took the following action.

A motion was made by Selectmen Alex Vispoli, seconded by Selectmen Mary O'Donoghue, that the Board of Selectmen of Andover, Massachusetts, in accordance with its Charter and Bylaws, has voted to authorize the Superintendent, Sheldon H. Berman, Ed.D., to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 6, 2017 for the West Elementary School located at 58 Beacon St, Andover, MA 01810, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

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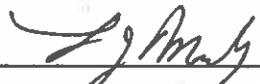
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The VOTE: 5-0 to approve.

A true copy

A T T E S T



Lawrence J. Murphy, Town Clerk
Dated: April 6, 2017

**Andover School Committee
Minutes of March 23, 2017**

Members in Attendance: Chair, Joel Blumstein, Vice-Chair, Susan McCready, Ted Teichert, Shannon Scully, and Paul Murphy

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Sheldon Berman, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration, Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Nancy Duclos, and Vishvah Kaul AHS Student Government Liaison to the Andover School Committee.

I. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order – Opening Ceremonies

Chair Blumstein called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag led by the members of Brownie Troop 79190, Lily Townsend, Lauren, Palacios, Krishna Patel, Stella Gryllakis, Katie Barry, Hannah Newman, and Claire Thiele. Vice Chair, Susan McCready presented each of the Brownies from Troop 79190 with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the School Committee.

Chairman Blumstein reported that the Literacy Update will be rescheduled to the next meeting.

B. New Business

1. Update on Statement of Interest

Paul Szymanski updated the Committee on the Statement of Interest (SOI) for West Elementary. The target SOI submission date is April 6, 2017 and the School Committee has to cast their vote tonight for the Statement of Interest.

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Motion: Shannon Scully moved to approve the required form of vote to submit an SOI for the West Elementary School as written. The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert and voted 5-0 to approve.

C. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Expense SW1725, Payroll 17S037 and 17S038

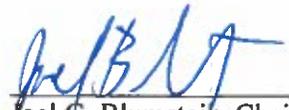
2. Minutes: January 11, 12, and 26, 2017

On a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Paul Murphy, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

D. Adjournment

At 7:30 P.M. on a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Ted Teichert, the School Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting of March 23, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee DeLorenzo, Recording Secretary



Joel G. Blumstein, Chairperson
Andover School Committee
Dated: April 4, 2017

A true copy

A T T E S T



Lawrence J. Murphy, Town Clerk
Dated: April 6, 2017