



Massachusetts School Building Authority

Timothy P. Cahill
Chairman, State Treasurer

Katherine P. Craven
Executive Director

July 29, 2009

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

Loxi Jo Calmes, Superintendent
Lunenburg Public Schools
1033 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg, MA 01462

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

Re: Ayer, Lunenburg, Shirley Schools

Dear Superintendent Frost, Superintendent Calmes 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, Lunenburg, Shirley to collaborate with the MSBA in evaluating and determining whether a high school design selected under the MSBA’s Model School Pilot Program is a preferred design alternative for a potential new regional high school. I understand that the Towns of Ayer, Lunenburg, and Shirley have not yet agreed to regionalize, and I remain committed to working with the Towns to assist with the regionalization effort so that the newly-created District could take advantage of this Model School opportunity. Participation in the Model School Pilot Program would qualify the newly-created district for five additional reimbursement points (5%) and the extra two percent “green” incentive points (2%). Also, forming a new regional school district would qualify the district for up to six additional reimbursement points (6%). This would grant a new, regionalized district, an additional 13% of reimbursement points that would otherwise be unavailable.

The MSBA has undertaken the Model School Pilot Program to effectively adapt and reuse the design of successful, recently-constructed high schools. This program has many

benefits, including delivering effective schools by capitalizing on proven solutions, perpetuating cost-effective designs and best practices, and compressing the design/bid schedule. The Model Schools are efficient and sustainable in design, easy to maintain, and flexible in educational programming. A new high school serving an Ayer-Lunenburg- Shirley District would be an ideal candidate for this Program.

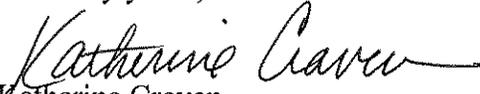
The Board's vote inviting Ayer, Lunenburg and Shirley to participate in the Model Schools Pilot Program is contingent upon all three towns (1) obtaining the required votes to create a regional school district, (2) reaching an agreement on regionalization that is approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, (3) executing a regional agreement in accordance with all applicable laws, and (4) appropriating sufficient funds to proceed.

The MSBA looks forward to continuing to work with the Towns of Ayer, Lunenburg and Shirley in pursuing regionalization and evaluating options that will result in the right-sized, most fiscally responsible and educationally appropriate solution for the development of a regional high school.

We will be contacting you soon to discuss the next steps in more detail, but in the meantime, I wanted to share with you the Board's vote to authorize the Towns of Ayer, Lunenburg and Shirley to collaborate with the MSBA in evaluating and determining whether a high school design selected under the MSBA's Model School Pilot Program is a preferred design alternative for a potential new regional high school.

I look forward to continuing to work with you as the MSBA's new grant program progresses. 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
Senator Jennifer Flanagan
Representative Robert Hargraves
Representative Jennifer Benson
Daniel W. Gleason, Chair, Ayer School Committee
Dr. David Reif, Chair, Lunenburg School Committee
David Baumritter, Chair, Shirley School Committee
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