STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

Exhibit #III.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: January 9, 2008

SUBJECT: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Site Approval Consideration;* Portland School Department – New K-5 Elementary School Construction Project.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Interim Superintendent Jeanne Whynot-Vickers requests that the State Board of Education approve a site in Portland, Maine, for a new elementary school. The new school will replace the Nathan Clifford School and also serve students from other schools in the area.

The proposed site, the Baxter School site, is an 11.96 acre parcel of which 4.8 acres are cleared for instructional purposes. The remainder of the site is wooded. The Baxter Elementary School, which has been closed, is presently on the site. The Baxter School will be removed prior to the construction of the new facility. The site will accommodate an appropriately sited building, adequate traffic flow and parking, as well as outdoor play and recreation areas.

In selecting Baxter three potential sites were extensively evaluated. They were the present Nathan Clifford School site, the Dougherty Field site and the Baxter School site. The Dougherty Field site is currently the location of the West School. The Baxter site scored much higher than the other two sites.

The Baxter School site has public water, public sewer, and three-phase power. The water and sewer lines are large enough to accommodate a school without further construction. Student residences within the city and the location of other elementary schools were taken into consideration in the site selection process. Traffic flow in the city was also a consideration.

All State and local agencies that have an interest or involvement in the proposed school have been contacted. Their responses are on file in the Department of Education. The architect has completed the Site Application form as well as the New vs. Renovation Study of the affected schools.

Project Information:

Project: Portland School Department – New K-5 Elementary School
Interim Superintendent: Jeanne Whynot-Vickers
Architect: Richard Groves, WBRC Architects
Total number of acres: 11.96
Total number of acres eligible for State support: N/A
Purchase cost: None, city owned
Appraised value: None, city owned
Amount eligible for State support: None, city owned

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

At its meeting on January 7, 2008, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to Portland School Department for a new K-5 school construction project located in Portland, Maine.

COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval to the Portland School Department for construction of a new K-5 school in Portland, Maine, under the provisions of Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

*Prepared by the School Facilities Services Team