



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

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT VII.C.

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

Date: April 15, 2009

Subject: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Phase I Design and Funding Approval Consideration*; Falmouth School Department, new elementary school construction project in Falmouth, Maine.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Falmouth Elementary School will be constructed in Falmouth, Maine, and house 917 students, grades preK through 5. The project received Concept Approval on August 12, 2008. The subsequent referendum passed with a 70% vote in favor of the project.

The Falmouth Elementary School project has been divided into two phases. This request is for State Board of Education approval of Phase I of the project. Phase I consists of the construction of a wood fired heating plant which will serve both the high school and the new elementary school and the construction of two athletic fields to replace those that will be lost because of the construction of the elementary school on the campus.

By constructing the heating plant at this time, Falmouth will take advantage of reduced energy costs at the high school for the 2009-2010 school year. Also, by constructing the two athletic fields at this time the impact on Falmouth's athletic program will be lessened.

It should be noted that these projects will be financed through bond anticipation notes. Based upon recent construction bids especially those for Durham and Brewer, and based upon what we have experienced in interest rates on bond anticipation notes, there appears to be significant savings in doing the projects now rather than waiting a year. Because of these factors, the Department of Education will ask for Design and Funding Approval for Phase II later this spring or early summer.

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Design & Funding Approval Consideration – Phase I

Falmouth School Department - Grades PreK-5 School

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In Phase I of the budget Falmouth has local only funds to pay for part of the heating plant because the plant will service the high school as well as the new elementary school once it is built. There are also local funds to pay for the irrigation of the two new athletic fields.

Phase I	State/Local	Local Only
Boiler Plant (construction)	\$1,327,400	\$280,000
Boiler Plant (site)	\$218,500	\$20,000
Athletic Fields	\$1,320,500	\$200,000
Administrative Costs and Reserves	\$310,129	\$46,341
Fees and Services	<u>\$230,977</u>	<u>\$34,514</u>
Total	\$3,407,506	\$580,855

The Design and Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to MRSA Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

The basic design of the project and budget have not changed since Concept Approval, and it has met the needed criteria to move forward which will allow it to be bonded and constructed on schedule.

The Falmouth School Department is requesting Design and Funding Approval for an elementary school qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, and

- The Falmouth proposed school construction project is eligible for school construction under MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 609;
- The proposed project and authorized method of financing are in the best interest of the State of Maine and the Town of Falmouth;
- The Falmouth project estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and
- The Falmouth proposed project is in compliance with MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to special education facilities.

Project Information

Project: Falmouth Elementary School

Superintendent: George Entwistle

Principal:

Architect: Oak Point Associates, Rob Tillotson

School(s) to be closed: D. W. Lunt School and Plummer-Motz School

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Project Budget Information

Concept Approval Date: August 12, 2008

Phase I - Project Cost: \$3,988,361

Phase I - Local Only (no State participation): \$580,855

Phase I - Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$3,407,506

Phase I - Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: None for Phase I

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

At its meeting on April 6, 2009, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Phase I Design & Funding Approval to the Falmouth School Department for a new preK-5 elementary school construction project located in Falmouth, Maine.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Phase I Design and Funding Approval to the Falmouth School Department for construction of a wood fired heating plant and two athletic fields in preparation of construction of a new preK-5 school in Falmouth, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the design and funding budget as presented.**

*Prepared by the School Facilities Services Team

**This approval constitutes Design & Funding Approval. Final Funding Approval may be subject to adjustment under Section 10, Subsection 1, of the State Board of Education Rules for School Construction Projects, which states:

“Final Funding Approval by the Commissioner establishes the Project Budget and takes place after construction bids have been received. At that time, the Commissioner may reduce the budget to finance the project, thus providing additional funds for other projects.”