



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

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT VII.B.

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

Date: April 15, 2009

Subject: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Concept Approval Consideration*;
Jefferson School Department, new preK-8 elementary school construction project.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Jefferson Elementary school project was rated number 14 on the 2004-2005 Approved Projects List. The project will house grades preK-8, will replace the Jefferson Village School, and will house 287 students, grades preK-8.

A complete New vs. Renovation Study is on file with the Department of Education which supports the Department's recommendation to construct a new facility

All appropriate State and local agencies have been contacted; and where necessary, documented approvals are on file.

The building has been designed to High Performance standards.

The basic building will meet the educational needs of the children in Jefferson. It is organized in a two-story configuration with the younger children on the first level, the older children on the second level, and the core facilities in the center of the school. The town will be asked to vote on a number of enhancements to the building. They include an expanded gymnasium and cafeteria, additional library space, pitched roofs, an emergency generator, and a geothermal heating and cooling system.

The building has been moved around on the site to achieve the best sun orientation and to reduce steep inclines as well as to improve traffic flow.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

Exhibit VII.B.

Concept Approval Consideration

Jefferson School Department Grades PreK-8 School

Date: April 15, 2009

Page -2-

Superintendent Francis N. Boynton has submitted the following statement:

“The development of the Jefferson Building Project has been a focus of the administration and School Committee since 1998. The need was seen as the building was reviewed for structural and code deficiencies at that time. Although some immediate concerns were addressed, the electrical and general facility inadequacies remain today. Early in 2000, the Committee determined the need for 4 additional portable reconitioned classrooms to the facility in addition to the 6 stick built portables that were built on site in 1988 and the one classroom portable for music added in 1995. These structures are showing their age.

The community of Jefferson has provided adequate funds to support the maintenance and upkeep of the building; the general structure, heating system, electrical system, and other components are beginning to age past their life expectancy. In general, the building has reached its useful limit and is rapidly becoming a liability as the components for repair are becoming hard to find. Although a recent project has made a significant difference in the air quality and structure, the building still lacks in this vital area for student health and learning. Community support and skill has certainly played a role in advancing the technology and communication components of the school, but the program has needs, which go beyond the cost effectiveness of a major retrofit.

For the school district, the long-term effect will be a reduction of costs for energy use, repairs, and maintenance. The efficiencies of a new building can be translated into program development and educational advancement in an improved educational environment. Students will not longer have to put on coats to go into the building to get a drink of water or use the facilities.

The development of a new school will become a key factor for the community of Jefferson. The school is a community center, which is final to the character of the community. As the centerpiece of the community, the school will serve the education of the children in a warm educational environment and become a center of pride for the community.”

The Jefferson School Department is requesting Concept Approval for an elementary school grades preK-8 qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Exhibit VII.B.

Concept Approval Consideration
Jefferson School Department Grades PreK-8 School
Date: April 15, 2009
Page -3-

Project Information

Project: Jefferson Elementary School
Superintendent: Francis Boynton
Principal: vacant
Architect: Oak Point Associates
School(s) to be closed: Jefferson Village School

Project Budget Information

Total Project Cost: \$19,098,555
Local Only (no State participation): \$748,167
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$18,202,573
Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$147,815

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

At its meeting on April 6, 2009, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to the Jefferson School Department for a new preK-8 elementary school construction project located in Jefferson, Maine.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to the Jefferson School Department for a new preK-8 elementary school in Jefferson, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the concept budget as presented.**

*Prepared by the School Facilities Services Team

**This approval constitutes Concept 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.”