



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

SUSAN A. GENDRON  
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT IV.B.

To: Members of the State Board of Education  
From: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner\*  
Date: August 12, 2008  
Subject: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Concept Approval Consideration*; SAD #22, New Hampden Academy school construction project.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

The Hampden Academy school project was rated number 17 on the 2004-2005 Approved Projects List. The project will house grades 9-12 and will replace the existing Hampden Academy.

A complete New vs. Renovation Study is on file with the Department of Education which supports the Department's recommendation to abandon the current Academy and construct a new high school 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 and may be LEED certified. SAD #22 will construct a high school designed to house 800 students. The school system has gone through an extensive visioning process that involved both local and nationally recognized educational consultants. The result of the extensive planning is reflected in the design of the school.

The school system went through extensive work with both the Department of Transportation and the Town of Hampden. The efforts have resulted in a safe and functional site.

The building is very compact and has classrooms on three levels. The design accommodates the educational program while being very energy efficient. The building's location also has the advantage of completing a one-site campus within the town of Hampden. School officials and their architects have worked extensively with state personnel in the development of this proposal.

School Administrative District #22 will make a major effort. The school district proposes funds to build a 900 seat performing arts center, a larger gymnasium, larger science rooms, and a geothermal heating and cooling system.

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Superintendent Rick Lyons has submitted the following statement:

Hampden Academy and School Administrative District # 22 have a long and rich tradition of educational excellence. The district embraces innovation, displays a strong commitment to the whole child, and focuses on student learning and exemplary teaching.

The new 21st Century Hampden Academy will certainly advance the district's educational philosophy and initiatives. The performing arts center will greatly enhance the fine arts curriculum and provide the three communities a tremendous community center. The facility will be responsive to the environmental components and the concept design being formulated will recognize current educational practices and standards that are research based. The educational specifications, a product of tremendous community input, specifically outline how philosophy and practice will intersect within the school setting.

Hampden Academy, given its strategic placement with the kindergarten to grade eight schools , will create a comprehensive K-12 campus. All schools within close proximity of one another will create a seamless learning continuum for all students and employees. As for the town of Hampden, it will positively redefine the infrastructure of the community.

SAD # 22's alternative plan has been approved, and as a result Hampden Academy will continue to provide superior educational opportunities for our three communities just like it has since it was formed in 1971.

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

School Administrative District #22 is requesting Concept Approval for a new high school qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

**Project Information**

Project: Hampden Academy  
Superintendent: Rick Lyons  
Principal: Ruey Yehle  
Architect: WBRC Architects  
School(s) to be closed: Hampden Academy

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### **Project Budget Information**

Total Project Cost: \$51,762,741  
Local Only (no State participation): \$6,175,000  
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$45,382,741  
Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$205,000

### **CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

At its meeting on July 25, 2008, the Construction Committee gained consensus to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to SAD #22 for a new Hampden Academy construction project located in Hampden, Maine.

### **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to SAD #22 for a new Hampden Academy in Hampden, 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.”*