



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: August 18, 2009

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

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

The new elementary school will be constructed in Falmouth, Maine, and will 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 is the largest elementary school project that has been proposed under the present Major Capital School Construction Program. Falmouth has made a major financial commitment (\$5,946,472) to the project. Falmouth school officials and Oak Point Associates personnel have met on numerous occasions with the Department on both the design and financial distribution within the proposed school project. The completed school should be an outstanding educational structure for both the children of Falmouth and the community. 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.

This Design and Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to MRSA Title 20-A, Section 15905(1). The Falmouth School Department is requesting Design and Funding Approval for a preK-5 elementary school qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, and

- The proposed 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 proposed project estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and
- The proposed project is in compliance with MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to special education facilities.

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### **Project Information**

Project: New Falmouth Elementary School  
Superintendent: Barbara Powers  
Principal: John Flaherty (D. W. Lunt School)  
Architect: Rob Tillotson, Oak Point Associates  
School(s) to be closed: Plummer-Motz School and the D. W. Lunt School

### **Project Budget Information**

Concept Approval Date: August 12, 2008  
Total Project Cost: \$46,234,545  
Local Only (no State participation): \$5,946,472  
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$40,098,254  
Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$189,819

## **CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

At its meeting on August 10, 2009, the Construction Committee voted 3-1 to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to Falmouth School Department for a new elementary school construction project located in Falmouth, Maine.

## **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to the Falmouth School Department for a new elementary 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.”*