



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

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT VI.E.

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

Date: December 9, 2009

Subject: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Design and Funding Approval Consideration*; RSU 9; new preK-3 elementary school construction project in Farmington, Maine.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The new preK-3 elementary school will be constructed in Farmington, Maine, and house 400 students, grades preK through 3. The project received Concept Approval on November 12, 2008. The subsequent referendum passed with an 84% vote in favor of the project.

There have been slight changes to the Concept design to simplify the plan and make it a better fit for a small urban site.

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.

RSU 9 is requesting Design and Funding Approval for a new preK-3 elementary school qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, and

- RSU 9 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 RSU 9;
- RSU 9 estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and
- RSU 9 proposed project is in compliance with MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to special education facilities.

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Design & Funding Approval Consideration
RSU 9, Grades PreK-3 School
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Project Information

Project: New PreK-3 School
Superintendent: Dr. Michael Cormier
Principal: Ms. Tracy Williams
Architect: Steve Blatt, Stephen Blatt Architects
School(s) to be closed: Mallett Elementary School

Project Budget Information

Concept Approval Date: November 12, 2008
Total Project Cost: \$18,900,000
Local Only (no State participation): \$75,000
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$18,675,000
Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$150,000

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On November 30, 2009, the Construction Committee voted to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to RSU #9 for a new preK-3 school in Farmington.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to RSU 9 for a new preK-3 school in Farmington, 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.”