



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JAMES E. RIER, JR.
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT #V.A.

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: James E. Rier, Jr., Commissioner*

Date: March 18, 2014

Subject: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Concept Approval Consideration*; RSU72/MSAD 72, addition and renovations preK-8 school construction project in Fryeburg.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Superintendent of Schools, Jay Robinson, requests that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval for an addition and renovations to the Molly Ockett School in Fryeburg, Maine. The proposed project replaces the Snow School which is number 5 on the Department of Education's Approved Projects List.

The addition will house preK through grade 5 students from Fryeburg and grade 5 students from the New Suncook School and the Denmark School and will eliminate 11 portable classrooms from around the district.

The district originally studied moving all elementary students into the new addition. When it was determined that some communities were not meeting the mill expectation limit under the funding formula, the local communities insisted that the project be downsized to avoid a major increase in local project costs. Even with the smaller addition, the district will see a significant local dollar impact.

The project will, however, consolidate grade 5 which will better prepare students for the middle school experience. The project will also include the district's superintendent's office. At present the office is in a wood frame building which is in very poor condition and could not be renovated at a reasonable cost.

The project is being designed to high performance standards. All local and State agencies have been contacted and, where necessary, documented approvals are on file. The project received Site Approval on June 12, 2013.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Superintendent, Jay Robinson has provided the following project description:

RSU72/MSAD 72 is a rural district, which serves the towns of Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Lovell, Stoneham, Stow, and Sweden. There are currently elementary schools located in three of our towns, Lovell, Denmark, and Fryeburg. When it became clear that the issues with the C. A. Snow School, such as traffic safety, inadequate instructional space, etc. could not effectively be addressed through upgrades or renovation, we made the decision to submit an application for Major Capital Construction funds.

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The new facility, which will be located on the existing middle-school site, will allow us to meet all the needs outlined on our initial application, which include:

- Replacement of the Snow Elementary School
- Replacement the Central Office
- Elimination of 11 Portable Classrooms throughout District

The new facility, which will be affixed to the existing middle school, will enable us to create a Pre-K to 8 facility, with shared core areas such as a library, kitchen and cafeteria. We will also be able to centralize some special education and alternative programming, providing greater access to these programs for all students. The layout of the elementary school will also include “pods” complete with space for support staff such as Title I, Guidance, Special-Education, and Behavior Support that will help us better support students’ academic, social, and emotional needs. This school will help us provide high quality educational programming and will also serve as a resource for the larger community for many years to come.

Project Information

Project: Addition and Renovations to the Molly Ockett School in Fryeburg
Superintendent: Jay Robinson
Principal: Emily Kirkpatrick
Architect: Stephen Blatt, Stephen Blatt Architects
School(s) to be closed: C.A. Snow School

Project Budget Information

Total Project Cost: \$19,996,645.
Local Only (no State participation): \$0.
Approved for State/Local Debt Service: \$19,996,645.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE’S RECOMMENDATION

The Construction Committee considered this exhibit at its March 3, 2014 meeting and voted to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to RSU72/MSAD 72 for the addition and renovations to the Molly Ockett School in Fryeburg, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the concept budget as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to RSU72/MSAD 72 for the addition and renovations to the Molly Ockett School in Fryeburg, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the concept budget as presented.

*Prepared by the Division of School Facilities