



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

WILLIAM H. BEARDSLEY
ACTING COMMISSIONER

Exhibit #VI.B.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: William H. Beardsley, Acting Commissioner*

DATE: April 13, 2016

SUBJECT: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Concept Approval Consideration*; Lewiston Public Schools – Grades PreK-6 Elementary School Construction Project.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Lewiston Superintendent of Schools, William Webster, Jr., requests that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval for a new PreK-6, 888 student Elementary School.

The original Martel Elementary School was constructed in 1933 on a 3 acre site. The building is overcrowded and has significant programmatic, building code, and health and safety issues. The project will also replace the Longley Elementary School constructed in the 1960s and has similar programmatic and safety issues. The Martel School rated #8 on the 2010-2011 School Facilities Rating Cycle and the Longley School rated #20.

The proposed new school will be built on the Franklin Pasture Athletic Field Complex located at the existing Lewiston High School complex. The site is within walking distance of both the existing elementary schools and the neighborhoods they serve.

The new building will be designed to meet the Department of Education school construction standards. All state and local agencies have had input, and where necessary, documented approvals are on file. The project received State Board of Education Site Approval on November 10, 2015.

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.

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Concept Approval Consideration

Lewiston Public Schools - New Elementary School

Date: April 13, 2016

Project description by Superintendent William Webster, Jr.

The new elementary school is scheduled to open in 2019 and will not come too soon to address Lewiston's continued growth in enrollment. The City has seen an average increase of 100 students per year over the last 10 years, and enrollment grew by 250 students last fall. Today there are no available rooms in Lewiston's public schools to add an additional elementary classroom.

The new elementary school will replace two old and overcrowded schools: Martel Elementary School and Longley Elementary School. Martel was built in 1933 with offices on the second floor, restricted playground spaces, little access for staff or students with disabilities, and a limit of two classrooms per grade level even with two portables. In recent years some grade levels have had as many as 29 students per class. The school has no separate cafeteria.

Longley was built in the 1960s as a K-2 school for 200 or so students and was connected to the City's Multi-purpose Building. The school now has 5 portable classrooms, and three years ago completely took over the Multi-Purpose Building. It now serves over 450 students, PreK-through sixth grade. Food is trucked in as the school does not have a full kitchen. Both Martel and Longley lag all the other Lewiston schools in classroom technology, parking and security measures.

Longley serves a predominantly minority population with over 50% English Language Learners. The combined schools will result in a socio-economic makeup that more closely mirrors the city population overall. The new school will also provide space presently lacking, such as art rooms, music rooms and appropriate physical education space, and, most importantly, will expand special education programming for autism, life functional life skills and behavior. This will allow Lewiston to service more students in-house as opposed to special purpose private schools. The new facility and student body make-up will have a very positive impact on student learning in Lewiston.

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Exhibit #VI.B.
Concept Approval Consideration
Lewiston Public Schools - New Elementary School
Date: April 13, 2016

Project Information

Project: New Lewiston Elementary School to replace Martel and Longley Schools
Superintendent: William Webster, Jr.
Principal: Stephen Whitfield, Martel Elementary School; Kristie Clark, Longley Elementary School
Architect: Harriman Architects & Engineers
School(s) to be closed: Martel Elementary School, Longley Elementary School

Project Budget Information

Total Project Cost: \$53,020,604
Local Only (no State participation): \$3,271,360
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$49,749,244

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION

The Acting Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to Lewiston Public Schools for a new PreK-6 Elementary School and also approve the Concept Budget as presented.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On April 1, 2016, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to Lewiston Public Schools for a new PreK-6 Elementary School in Lewiston, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project approve the concept budget as presented.

*Prepared by the Division of School Facilities