

District: City of Brockton
School Name: Brockton High School
Recommended Category: Invitation to Feasibility Study
Date: June 19, 2024

Recommendation

That the Executive Director be authorized to invite the City of Brockton (the “City”), to collaborate with the MSBA to conduct and/or review a Feasibility Study, as described in 963 CMR 2.00 et seq, subject to the conditions noted in this memorandum.

Discussion

The City received its invitation into the Eligibility Period for the Brockton High School 2022 Statement of Interest at the December 21, 2022, Board of Directors meeting. On March 1, 2023, the City’s 270-day Eligibility Period commenced, with November 27, 2023, representing the end date of the Eligibility Period.

In a letter to the MSBA dated November 20, 2023, the City cited that in order to fulfill the local process associated with securing their Feasibility Study and Schematic Design funding authorization, a 120-day extension of time was needed. The City noted a Plan B form of government, with a two-year cycle of elections for Mayor, City Council Members, and School Committee Members. The City proposed to seek approval for the Feasibility Study and Schematic Design funds from the new City Council members who were sworn in on January 1, 2024. The City proposed a timeline to complete all City Council meetings with the final vote on the appropriation scheduled for March 11, 2024. During the City’s February 5, 2024, Finance Committee Meeting, councilors voted to postpone the vote schedule due to the ongoing audit and investigations described in a letter from the City dated March 15, 2024. This letter also described the City’s revised timeline to secure Feasibility Study and Schematic Design funds. In a letter from the City dated April 10, 2024, the City confirmed that it had completed the required funding authorization by final vote on April 8, 2024.

At the December 13, 2023, Board of Directors meeting, the Board authorized an extension beyond the initial 30-day extension authorized by the Executive Director¹, up to 161 days beyond December 27, 2023, to June 5, 2024, to complete the remaining Eligibility Period requirement to authorize funding for the Feasibility Study. With this extension, the MSBA requested that the City provide updates every other month, starting at the end of January, on the progress of the City Council meetings and votes, and the progress on the financial systems and evaluation of FY 24 and FY 25 budgets.

The City has provided three updates to the MSBA regarding the review of the FY 24 budget and financial controls. The MSBA understands that the City has reconciled FY 23 and FY 24 budgets and is currently seeking approval of the FY 25 budget with their City Council, with the final vote

¹ At the June 28, 2017, Board of Directors meeting, Eligibility Period administrative procedures were introduced, including the Executive Director’s ability to extend the 270-day period by up to an additional 30 days to accommodate confirmation between the MSBA and a district of the agreed-upon enrollment and allow time for a district to finalize its feasibility study/schematic design funding.

scheduled for June 24, 2024. In addition, MSBA staff met with the City on June 11, 2024, to review the City's overall readiness to proceed into Feasibility Study. As part of that conversation, the City and the MSBA have agreed to hold quarterly meetings, in addition to the regularly scheduled project meetings, to receive updates to operational budget issues, review progress on the feasibility study, and understand actions that the City is taking to plan for the capital cost of a proposed project at Brockton High School as well as maintenance at all of its schools.

Recognizing the urgency and need to address issues at Brockton High School, which houses the largest Grade 9 to 12 student enrollment in the Commonwealth, MSBA staff had previously recommended this extension to Eligibility Period and staff are now recommending that the City be invited to proceed into Feasibility Study.

**Exhibit A
Invitation to Feasibility Study**

District	School	Age of Existing Building	Existing Square Footage	Grade Configuration(s)	Agreed Upon Enrollment(s)	Total Project Funding Debt Exclusion Anticipated?
Brockton	Brockton High School	1970	548,000	*9-12	*3,640	Undetermined

*Agreed Upon Design Enrollment and Grade Configuration between the District and MSBA