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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Leahy and Members of the City Council

FROM: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

DATE: May 21, 2020

SUBJECT: 4/28/2020 Motion by C. Rourke - Req. City Mgr. Contact The Massachusetts School Building Authority Regarding The Status On The Money Allotted To Lowell Concerning The Renovation Of Lowell High School

I had a phone call with Jack McCarthy, Deputy Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director of the MSBA in which we discussed the Covid-19 crisis and and potential impacts in may have on Lowell's projects currently in progress. Mr. McCarthy advised me that projects that have already approved by the MSBA are not in jeopardy as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, including the Lowell High School project and Lowell's ARP project.

In addition, the following statement was released by the MSBA on April 17, 2020 which reiterates this information. "To respond to the impact of the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the MSBA office has been temporarily closed since March 17, 2020 until further notice. However, the MSBA remains committed to our partnership with districts and we continue to accept reimbursement requests, contracts and other documents electronically so we can continue to support project approvals and reimburse districts throughout this pandemic..."

[https://www.massschoolbuildings.org/news\\_events/Message\\_For\\_Districts](https://www.massschoolbuildings.org/news_events/Message_For_Districts)

### **Accelerated Repair Program Update**

As the Council is aware, the City of Lowell was awarded eight separate Accelerated Repair Program grant-funded projects located at six different schools – the Bailey, Daley, Greenhalge, McAuliffe, Rogers, and Sullivan schools. Each school was awarded a new boiler, and both the Bailey and Sullivan were also awarded new roofs. All eight of the projects have been granted final approval by the MSBA, and are in various states of progress. The total value of the work is a little over \$13.6 million, with the MSBA providing grants to cover roughly 80% of the costs, and the City covering the remainder.

The six boiler projects are all out to bid and are expected to be awarded by early June, with walkthroughs for potential bidders occurring this last week. The boiler projects at all six schools are all on track for construction over the summer months of 2020, and are expected to be complete in time for the fall heating season.

The roof projects at the Bailey and Sullivan have experienced design delays of around 3-4 weeks, which has had a ripple effect on when the projects will be put out to bid. They are likely to be put out to bid in mid-June, with construction beginning about a month later. The design delays will possibly push the “field work” on the roof, the most intrusive part of the construction, into the late summer or early fall. This work can be continued and completed after students return to school. If this phase of the project is ongoing when students return to school in the fall, the daily work will only begin after students leave school for the day, minimizing any disruptions. Following the completion of the field work, perimeter detail work follows, which is less intrusive, will be completed.

Even with the delays on the roof projects, all eight Accelerated Repair Program projects are tracking to be completed during the 2020 construction season.