



Massachusetts School Building Authority

Deborah B. Goldberg
Chairman, State Treasurer

John K. McCarthy
Executive Director

October 9, 2015

Mr. Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager
City of Lowell
Lowell City Hall
375 Merrimack Street, Second Floor, Room 43
Lowell, MA 01852

Re: City of Lowell, Lowell High School

Dear Mr. Murphy:

I would like to thank you and your team for meeting with Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") staff on October 5, 2015 during which enrollment projections and methodologies were reviewed for Lowell High School (the "Proposed Project") in the City of Lowell (the "District"). As discussed, the next critical step is for the MSBA and the District to agree on the design enrollment for the Lowell High School.

The Lowell High School presently serves the District's entire grade 9-12 enrollment, and accordingly, this analysis will be particularly focused on the enrollment projections for those grades. The table below illustrates the District's K-12 enrollment during the most recent ten year period, including enrollment for the most recent school year (2014-2015) as reported by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the "DESE"). The total grade 9-12 enrollment in Lowell as reported by the District for the 2014-2015 school year was 3,040 students which reflects a decrease of 682 students (-18%) from the grade 9-12 enrollment reported in 2005-2006 which was the maximum grade 9-12 enrollment reported in the preceding ten years. Additionally, the current year's grade 9-12 enrollment reflects a decrease of approximately 307 students (-9%) from the average grade 9-12 enrollment reported during the preceding ten year period.

YEAR	K-5	6-8	9-12	TOTAL
2005	6,374	3,553	3,722	13,649
2006	6,277	3,425	3,711	13,413
2007	6,177	3,303	3,573	13,053
2008	6,286	3,246	3,396	12,928
2009	6,375	3,165	3,290	12,830
2010	6,533	3,186	3,384	13,103
2011	6,578	3,303	3,164	13,045
2012	6,948	3,303	3,112	13,363
2013	7,041	3,343	3,076	13,460
2014	7,133	3,289	3,040	13,462

The MSBA understands that the District is proposing a design enrollment to accommodate approximately 3,900 students in grades 9-12 at the Lowell High School. The enrollment in grades 9-12 reported to the DESE for the 2014-2015 school year at Lowell High School was 3,040 students.

With respect to future enrollments, the MSBA's base enrollment forecast indicates the District's grade 9-12 enrollment will increase through 2020-2021 then decline through 2024-2025. The average grade 9-12 base enrollment forecast for the projected period through the 2024-2025 school year is 3,355 students.

As a result of a sensitivity analysis performed by the MSBA on this base enrollment projection and further discussion with the District, the following adjustments have been made to the base enrollment projection:

- Out-of-District Enrollment
 - In order to adjust for fluctuations to the out-of-district enrollment patterns of the District's residents over time, the MBSA has made an additional adjustment to the base enrollment projection.
 - In order to make this adjustment, the MSBA adjusted the grade to grade survival ratios for grades K-5 by a total of 3.3% throughout a four year period in the projection.
 - This adjustment added approximately 85 students to the average grade 9-12 enrollment as compared to the projection without this adjustment.

- Development
 - Based on the discussions between the District and the MSBA, and the anticipated development information provided by the District, the MSBA enrollment model has been adjusted to use the five-year 75th percentile cohort survival rate for 2015-2016 rather than the five-year average cohort survival rate, which is utilized throughout the base enrollment forecast.
 - This adjustment added approximately 80 students to the average total grade 9-12 enrollment as compared to the projection without this adjustment.

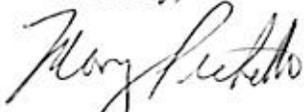
As a result of analysis on the base enrollment projection, the adjustment to the base projection described above, and based on the historical enrollment trends of the District, the MSBA recommends a design enrollment of 3,520 students for the Lowell High School.

The MSBA believes that this design enrollment recommendation will position the District to efficiently meet space capacity needs throughout future enrollment variations. Please sign and return the attached certification within 7 calendar days to confirm agreement on this design enrollment. If the District feels that this design enrollment does not meet the needs of the District, please respond to this letter via e-mail to Sarah Blache and propose three meeting/conference call times for which the District can be available to discuss enrollment.

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Lowell High School Enrollment Letter

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Sarah Blache (Sarah.Blache@MassSchoolBuildings.org) at 617-720-4466.

Sincerely,



Mary Pichetti
Director of Capital Planning

Cc: Legislative Delegation
The Honorable Rodney M. Eliot, Mayor, City of Lowell
John J. Leahy, Vice Chair, Lowell City Council
Connie Martin, Vice Chair, Lowell School Committee
Dr. Salah E. Khelifaoui, Superintendent, Lowell Public Schools
Joanna Johnson-Collins, Grants Manager, Lowell Public Schools
Brian J. Martin, Headmaster, Lowell High School
File: 1.2 Enrollment Projections (Region 3)

**MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY
CITY OF LOWELL
LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL
DESIGN ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATION**

As a result of a collaborative analysis with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") of enrollment projections and space capacity needs for the proposed project at the Lowell High School, the City of Lowell hereby acknowledges and agrees that the design of the proposed project at the Lowell School shall be based on an enrollment of no more than 3,520 students in grades 9-12. The City of Lowell further acknowledges and agrees that, pursuant to 963 CMR 2.00 *et seq.*, the MSBA shall determine the square feet per student space allowance and total square footage for a high school serving 3,520 students in grades 9-12. The City of Lowell acknowledges and agrees that it has no right or entitlement to any particular design enrollment, square feet per student space allowance, or total square footage and that it has no right or entitlement to a design enrollment any greater than 3,520 students for the Lowell High School, and further acknowledges and agrees that it shall not bring any claim or action, legal or equitable, against the MSBA, or any of its officers or employees, for the purpose of obtaining an increase in the design enrollment of the Lowell High School that it has acknowledged and agreed to herein. The City of Lowell further acknowledges and agrees that, among other things, the design enrollment, square feet per student space allowance, and total square footage of the Lowell High School shall be subject to the approval of the MSBA's Board and that the final approval of a proposed project at the Lowell High School shall be within the sole discretion of the MSBA's Board.

The undersigned, for themselves and the City of Lowell, hereby certify that they have read and understand the contents of this Design Enrollment Certification and that each of the above statements is true, complete and accurate. The undersigned also hereby certify that they have been duly authorized by the appropriate governmental body to execute this Certification on behalf of the City of Lowell and to bind the City of Lowell to its terms.

Chief Executive Officer

Duly Authorized Representative of School Committee

Date

Date

Superintendent of Schools

Date