



Massachusetts School Building Authority

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Chief Executive Officer

John K. McCarthy
Executive Director / Deputy CEO

December 27, 2018

Dr. Marilyn Tencza, Superintendent
Leicester Public Schools
3 Washburn Square, 3rd Floor
Leicester, MA 01524

Dear Dr. Tencza:

Thank you for notifying the MSBA staff on a phone call of November 27, 2018 about the potential closure of the Leicester Memorial Elementary School.

Pursuant to MSBA regulations, the District must provide the MSBA with written notice at least 6 months prior to the closure or removal from service of a school facility. In addition, the District shall submit the following information regarding the District's proposal to the MSBA:

1. A detailed plan for accommodating any displaced school programs and services;
2. A detailed plan for accommodating district students within the remaining school buildings and otherwise, as a result of the closure of the school facility;
3. A long-range plan for accommodating district students based on the MSBA's Enrollment Projections;
4. Any future plans for the sale or lease of other property under control of the school district; and
5. Any future plans for the construction, renovation, addition or lease of school facilities in the school district.

The MSBA's enabling legislation, **M.G.L. c. 70B**, and the MSBA's regulations, **963 CMR 2.00** et seq., specifically address the issue of school closures and set forth a number of requirements that a district must meet in connection with any such closure, including:

- Districts that are contemplating removing a school from service are required to notify the MSBA six months in advance of the intended closing.

- Districts that close a school for which they have received a school building grant from the MSBA or are currently receiving a grant from the MSBA may not receive remaining grant payments. Additionally, the MSBA may recapture a portion of the financial assistance that the district has already received for such projects.
- If a school district submits a Statement of Interest to the MSBA and applies for a grant after having removed a school facility from service, the district will only be eligible for a grant if the MSBA determines that the grant is not for the purpose of replacing a school facility that was removed from service in the past ten years or that the need for the grant could not have been reasonably anticipated at the time of the removal from service.
- When reviewing grant requests for proposed projects, the MSBA looks at multiple options that may address the school building deficiency. Foreclosing potential options that could solve school building problems by removing a school facility from service will affect the MSBA's consideration of current and future Statements of Interest and proposed projects.

The MSBA will contact the District after the MSBA has had a chance to review the information that has been requested. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 617-720-4466.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Kelley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Kelley

Associate General Counsel