

# Massachusetts School Building Authority

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September 8, 2016

Mr. Mark A. Paolillo, Chair  
Belmont Board of Selectmen  
Office of the Board of Selectmen  
455 Concord Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Belmont, MA 02478

Re: Town of Belmont, Belmont High School

Dear Mr. Paolillo:

The Massachusetts School Building Authority ("the MSBA") is in receipt of the Town of Belmont's ("the District's") letters dated August 1, 2016, August 2, 2016, and August 8, 2016 in which the District has posed several questions related to a proposed project at Belmont High School. The MSBA has reviewed the District's inquiries and offers the following information.

**District Question from August 1, 2016 Letter:**

*What restriction or constraints would the MSBA impose if the Town of Belmont decided to construct a new Public Library connected to the new or renovated Belmont High School Building?*

Although the MSBA understands the District's interest in constructing a new Public Library, the MSBA has not approved funding for school building projects that are connected to other facilities. Consequently, a project option that includes a public library will be considered ineligible for reimbursement. If the District chooses to explore the possibility of locating a public library as part of a separate project on the high school site, the District will need to work with its consultants to determine if the proposed site is sufficient to accommodate the needs of the proposed school project and the potential public library. All work associated with the design of the public library and its associated site work would need to be performed by separately procured consultants.

**District Question from August 2, 2016 Letter:**

*We respectfully ask that we are able to explore a Pre-K - K facility that would not be physically attached to the high school building. This building would be on the campus of the high school.*

On January 27, 2016, the MSBA Board of Directors invited the District to commence with Eligibility Period for a high school which serves students in grades 9 -12. During a meeting on June 13, 2016 between the MSBA and the District, enrollment projections and methodologies were reviewed for the high school and the District expressed its interest in examining a number of potential configurations including maintaining the current configuration of grades 9-12 and creating an early childhood center in the high school facility by moving the Pre-K and K students from the District elementary schools. The MSBA enrollment letter dated June 24, 2016 acknowledged the different configurations requested by the District to be explored including the option that would relocate Pre K- K students from the existing elementary schools into the proposed high school facility. At the District's request upon receipt of the MSBA enrollment letter, a subsequent meeting was held on July 28, 2016 to further discuss the different configurations, in particular, interest in constructing a dedicated facility for Pre K- K students on the campus of the high school.

The MSBA enrollment discussions as well as the enrollment letter and certification reflect a configuration that would house the Pre-K - K students within the footprint of the proposed high school facility. Any other option outside the footprint of the high school facility would constitute a separate project, therefore a separate Statement of Interest and independent action by the MSBA Board of Directors.

**District Question #1 from August 8, 2016 Letter:**

*What restrictions would the MSBA impose if the Town of Belmont decided to include repairs or improvements to our existing indoor pool and/or field house as part of a new or renovated Belmont High School building project?*

Under current policy and practice the MSBA would not object to a proposed project that includes a renovated field house, provided that all areas in excess of those included in MSBA guidelines would be ineligible for reimbursement. Similarly, under current policy and practice the MSBA would not object to a proposed project that includes renovation of an existing swimming pool, provided that all associated costs including, study, design, management, and construction, would be ineligible for reimbursement. However, the MSBA expects spaces located in new or substantially renovated areas to be compliant with MSBA space standards.

**District Question #2 from August 8, 2016 Letter:**

*If the Town of Belmont wanted to design a new or renovated Belmont High School Building in excess of the MSBA Study Enrollment Certification estimate for various grade configurations, or include additional instructional spaces that were in excess of the MSBA criteria, is that possible? If so, how would the allocation of the additional costs be managed and reported to the MSBA?*

Compliance with MSBA space guidelines will vary depending on the District's preferred solution, the educational needs documented in the District's educational program, and the extent that the proposed spaces are located either in existing construction, substantially renovated existing areas, or newly constructed portions of the proposed facility. The MSBA will expect spaces located in new or substantially renovated areas to be compliant with MSBA space standards.

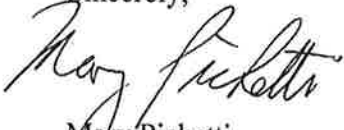
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**District Question regarding time extension to complete the Enrollment Certification:**

The request for an extension of time beyond the 180-day period to conclude the enrollment process is granted. The MSBA looks forward to receiving the signed Enrollment Certification from the District on or before October 14, 2016.

We hope that the information in this letter helps to inform local discussion and decisions as the District moves forward in the MSBA Grant Program process.

Sincerely,



Mary Pichetti  
Director of Capital Planning

Cc: Legislative Delegation  
David J. Kale, Belmont Town Administrator  
Floyd S. Carman, Belmont Treasurer & Collector  
Lisa Fiore, Chair, Belmont School Committee  
John P. Phelan, Superintendent, Belmont Public Schools  
File: 10.2 Letters (Region 4)