

Massachusetts School Building Authority

Next Steps to Finalize Submission of your FY 2013 Statement of Interest

Thank you for submitting your FY 2013 Statement of Interest (SOI) to the MSBA electronically. **Please note, the District's submission is not yet complete.** The District is required to print and mail a hard copy of the SOI to the MSBA along with the required supporting documentation, which is described below.

Each SOI has two Certification pages that must be signed by the Superintendent, the School Committee Chair, and the Chief Executive Officer*. Please make sure that **both** certifications contained in the SOI have been signed and dated by each of the specified parties and that the hardcopy SOI is submitted to the MSBA with **original signatures**.

SIGNATURES: Each SOI has two (2) Certification pages that must be signed by the District.

In some Districts, two of the required signatures may be that of the same person. If this is the case, please have that person sign in both locations. Please do not leave any of the signature lines blank or submit photocopied signatures, as your SOI will be incomplete.

**Local chief executive officer: In a city or town with a manager form of government, the manager of the municipality; in other cities, the mayor; and in other towns, the board of selectmen unless, in a city or town, some other municipal office is designated as the chief executive office under the provisions of a local charter.*

VOTES: Each SOI must be submitted with the proper vote documentation. This means that (1) the required governing bodies have voted to submit each SOI, (2) the specific vote language required by the MSBA has been used, and (3) the District has submitted a record of the vote in the format required by the MSBA.

- **School Committee Vote:** Submittal of all SOIs must be approved by a vote of the School Committee.
 - For documentation of the vote of the School Committee, Minutes of the School Committee meeting at which the vote was taken must be submitted with the original signature of the Committee Chairperson. The Minutes must contain the actual text of the vote taken which should be substantially the same as the MSBA's SOI vote language.
- **Municipal Body Vote:** SOIs that are submitted by cities and towns must be approved by a vote of the appropriate municipal body (e.g., City Council/ Aldermen/Board of Selectmen) in addition to a vote of the School Committee.
 - Regional School Districts do not need to submit a vote of the municipal body.
 - For the vote of the municipal governing body, a copy of the text of the vote, which shall be substantially the same as the MSBA's SOI vote language, must be submitted with a certification of the City/Town Clerk that the vote was taken and duly recorded, and the date of the vote must be provided.

CLOSED SCHOOLS: Districts that have reported closed school information must download the report from the "Closed School" tab, which can be found on the District Main page. Please print this report, which then must be signed by the Superintendent, the School Committee Chair, and the Chief Executive Officer. A signed report, with original signatures must be included with the District's hard copy SOI submittal. **If a District submits multiple SOIs, only one copy of the Closed School information is required.**

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION FOR SOI PRIORITIES #1 AND #3: If a District selects Priority #1 and/or Priority #3, the District is required to submit additional documentation with its SOI.

- If a District selects Priority #1, Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in

a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of the school children, where no alternative exists, the MSBA requires a hard copy of the engineering or other report detailing the nature and severity of the problem and a written professional opinion of how imminent the system failure is likely to manifest itself. The District also must submit photographs of the problematic building area or system to the MSBA.

- If a District selects Priority #3, Prevention of a loss of accreditation, the MSBA requires the full accreditation report (s) and any supporting correspondence between the District and the accrediting entity.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: In addition to the information required with the SOI hard copy submittal, the District may also provide any reports, pictures, or other information they feel will give the MSBA a better understanding of the issues identified at a facility.

If you have any questions about the SOI process please contact Brian McLaughlin at 617-720-4466 or Brian.McLaughlin@massschoolbuildings.org.

Massachusetts School Building Authority

School District Somerville

District Contact Skip Bandini TEL: (617) 625-6600

Name of School Benjamin G Brown

Submission Date 3/7/2013

SOI CERTIFICATION

To be eligible to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI), a district must certify the following:

- ⓑ The district hereby acknowledges and agrees that this SOI is NOT an application for funding and that submission of this SOI in no way commits the MSBA to accept an application, approve an application, provide a grant or any other type of funding, or places any other obligation on the MSBA.
- ⓑ The district hereby acknowledges that no district shall have any entitlement to funds from the MSBA, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B or the provisions of 963 CMR 2.00.
- ⓑ The district hereby acknowledges that the provisions of 963 CMR 2.00 shall apply to the district and all projects for which the district is seeking and/or receiving funds for any portion of a municipally-owned or regionally-owned school facility from the MSBA pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B.
- ⓑ The district hereby acknowledges that this SOI is for one existing municipally-owned or regionally-owned public school facility in the district that is currently used or will be used to educate public PreK-12 students and that the facility for which the SOI is being submitted does not serve a solely early childhood or Pre-K student population.
- ⓑ After the district completes and submits this SOI electronically, the district must sign the required certifications and submit one signed original hard copy of the SOI to the MSBA, with all of the required documentation described under the "Vote" tab, on or before the deadline.
- ⓑ The district will schedule and hold a meeting at which the School Committee will vote, using the specific language contained in the "Vote" tab, to authorize the submission of this SOI. This is required for cities, towns, and regional school districts.
- ⓑ Prior to the submission of the hard copy of the SOI, the district will schedule and hold a meeting at which the City Council/Board of Aldermen or Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body will vote, using the specific language contained in the "Vote" tab, to authorize the submission of this SOI. This is not required for regional school districts.
- ⓑ On or before the SOI deadline, the district will submit the minutes of the meeting at which the School Committee votes to authorize the Superintendent to submit this SOI. The District will use the MSBA's vote template and the vote will specifically reference the school and the priorities for which the SOI is being submitted. The minutes will be signed by the School Committee Chair. This is required for cities, towns, and regional school districts.
- ⓑ The district has arranged with the City/Town Clerk to certify the vote of the City Council/Board of Aldermen or Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body to authorize the Superintendent to submit this SOI. The district will use the MSBA's vote template and submit the full text of this vote, which will specifically reference the school and the priorities for which the SOI is being submitted, to the MSBA on or before the SOI deadline. This is not required for regional school districts.
- ⓑ The district hereby acknowledges that this SOI submission will not be complete until the MSBA has received all of the required vote documentation and certification signatures in a format acceptable to the MSBA.

Chief Executive Officer *	School Committee Chair	Superintendent of Schools
_____	_____	_____
(print name)	(print name)	(print name)
_____	_____	_____
(signature)	(signature)	(signature)
_____	_____	_____
Date	Date	Date

* Local chief executive officer: In a city or town with a manager form of government, the manager of the municipality; in other cities, the mayor; and in other towns, the board of selectmen unless, in a city or town, some other municipal office is designated to the chief executive office under the provisions of a local charter.

Massachusetts School Building Authority

School District SomervilleDistrict Contact Skip Bandini TEL: (617) 625-6600Name of School Benjamin G BrownSubmission Date 3/7/2013

Note

The following Priorities have been included in the Statement of Interest:

1. ☐ Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.
2. ☐ Elimination of existing severe overcrowding.
3. ☐ Prevention of the loss of accreditation.
4. ☐ Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments.
5. ☐ Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.
6. ☐ Short term enrollment growth.
7. ☒ Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.
8. ☐ Transition from court-ordered and approved racial balance school districts to walk-to, so-called, or other school districts.

SOI Vote Requirement

☒ I acknowledge that I have reviewed the MSBA's vote requirements for submitting an SOI which are set forth in the Vote Tab of this SOI. I understand that the MSBA requires votes from specific parties/governing bodies, in a specific format using the language provided by the MSBA. Further, I understand that the MSBA requires certified and signed vote documentation to be submitted with the SOI. I acknowledge that my SOI will not be considered complete and, therefore, will not be reviewed by the MSBA unless the required accompanying vote documentation is submitted to the satisfaction of the MSBA.

Potential Project Scope: Potential New School

Is this SOI the District Priority SOI? NO

School name of the District Priority SOI: Somerville High

District Goal for School: Please explain the educational goals of any potential project at this school

The district goals are to provide specialized classrooms as required to provide proper education. The Brown School was built in 1900 and does not provide suitable space for many of today's programs. The building lacks space for a cafeteria, kitchen, gymnasium, art and music rooms, resource rooms, computer room, conference room and lacks adequate storage space. The nurse's office and teacher's room are without sinks. Student lavatories are in the basement for boys and on the 1st floor for the girls. Every classroom is currently occupied and are at capacity. The playground consists of a paved area but no playground

equipment exists. Since no gym exists gym classes take place outside or within a standard classroom. The building is not A.D.A. compliant.

District's Proposed Schedule: What is the District's proposed schedule to achieve the goal(s) stated above?

The specific schedule or achieving the District's goals for the Brown School are dependent on many factors, primarily the schedule for MSBA funding. There are no plans to implement these crucial needs without MSBA funding to support education in Somerville.

Is this part of a larger facilities plan? NO

If "YES", please provide the following:

Facilities Plan Date:

Planning Firm:

Please provide an overview of the plan including as much detail as necessary to describe the plan, its goals and how the school facility that is the subject of this SOI fits into that plan:

Please provide the current student to teacher ratios at the school facility that is the subject of this SOI: 14 students per teacher

Please provide the originally planned student to teacher ratios at the school facility that is the subject of this SOI: 15 students per teacher

Does the District have a Master Educational Plan that includes facility goals for this building and all school buildings in District? YES

If "YES", please provide the author and date of the District's Master Educational Plan.

New England School Development Council, June, 2012

Is there overcrowding at the school facility? YES

If "YES", please describe in detail, including specific examples of the overcrowding.

Three specialist classrooms in the basement have been converted to grade level classrooms. This development results in a lack of dedicated program space for Art, Music & Physical Education.

Has the district had any recent teacher layoffs or reductions? NO

If "YES", how many teaching positions were affected? 0

At which schools in the district?

Please describe the types of teacher positions that were eliminated (e.g., art, math, science, physical education, etc.).

Has the district had any recent staff layoffs or reductions? NO

If "YES", how many staff positions were affected? 0

At which schools in the district?

Please describe the types of staff positions that were eliminated (e.g., guidance, administrative, maintenance, etc.).

Please provide a description of the program modifications as a consequence of these teacher and/or staff reductions, including the impact on district class sizes and curriculum.

N/A

Please provide a detailed description of your most recent budget approval process including a description of any budget reductions and the impact of those reductions on the district's school facilities, class sizes, and educational program.

The Somerville School Department's budget process consists of budget presentations to the School Committee with subsequent deliberation and modifications. The approved budget is then forwarded to the Board of Alderman.

General Description

BRIEF BUILDING HISTORY: Please provide a detailed description of when the original building was built, and the date(s) and project scopes(s) of any additions and renovations (maximum of 5000 characters).

Constructed in the mid-1920s the Benjamin Brown School is a two and three story 41,000 sq. ft. brick veneer structure. It is a difficult building to provide proper education with today's requirements since the building has many antiquated features. The building is not ADA compliant.

TOTAL BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE: Please provide the original building square footage PLUS the square footage of any additions.

41000

SITE DESCRIPTION: Please provide a detailed description of the current site and any known existing conditions that would impact a potential project at the site. Please note whether there are any other buildings, public or private, that share this current site with the school facility. What is the use(s) of this building(s)? (maximum of 5000 characters).

The building is located on a lot of 26,733 sq. ft. bordered by paved streets on three sides, and residential properties on the fourth.

ADDRESS OF FACILITY: Please type address, including number, street name and city/town, if available, or describe the location of the site. (Maximum of 300 characters)

201 Willow Ave. Somerville, MA

BUILDING ENVELOPE: Please provide a detailed description of the building envelope, types of construction materials used, and any known problems or existing conditions (maximum of 5000 characters).

The Brown School consists of structural masonry. There is a large stress crack in the masonry on the north elevation. The roof is a combination of slate and asphalt, both believed to be original.

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the EXTERIOR WALLS ? NO

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement: 0

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the ROOF? NO

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement: 0

Type Of ROOF:

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the WINDOWS? YES

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement: 2010

Type Of WINDOWS: Aluminum Frame Double Pane

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

Full replacement of frames and glazing of approximately 100 windows

MECHANICAL and ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS: Please provide a detailed description of the current mechanical and electrical systems and any known problems or existing conditions (maximum of 5000 characters).

The main electrical service panel consists of 2000 amperes, which feeds a sub panel on each corridor. There is no sign of surge protection in the building. The heating system is a steam system providing heat through cast iron radiators.

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the BOILERS? YES

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement: 2009

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

Replaced existing boilers with two H.B. Smith boilers.

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the HVAC SYSTEM ? NO

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement: 0

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the ELECTRICAL SERVICES AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM? NO

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement: 0

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement:

BUILDING INTERIOR: Please provide a detailed description of the current building interior including a description of the flooring systems, finishes, ceilings, lighting, etc. (maximum of 5000 characters).

The interior walls inside the building are constant with a combination of gypsum and horsehair plaster. Classroom ceilings are 2x4 acoustical tiles with suspending grid patterns. The music room and teacher's room is located in basement next to the boiler room. Most hallway and classroom floors consist of vinyl asbestos and composition tile. Some classrooms have carpeting. Many of the exterior and interior doors need to be replaced. Most fixtures and millwork is consistent with the 1960 model schools décor. Third floor library was renovated in the late 1980s, with built-in skylight throughout.

PROGRAMS and OPERATIONS: Please provide a detailed description of the current programs offered and indicate whether there are program components that cannot be offered due to facility constraints, operational constraints, etc. (maximum of 5000 characters).

The Brown School currently operates as a kindergarten through Grade 6 school for 266 children. There is no gymnasium, cafeteria, or areas for full school assembles. Physical education classes must be held in the school yard, or in classrooms. There is no dedicated art, music or science room. This creates challenges with scheduling and storage. Due to the lack of cafeteria area, student must eat lunch in their classroom, and carry trays of hot food up and down stairs, creating a potentially unsafe situation. Space in the basement floor of the building has been renovated into classroom space. The building is not handicapped accessible. There is no intercom system in the building.

CORE EDUCATIONAL SPACES: Please provide a detailed description of the Core Educational Spaces within the facility, a description of the number and sizes (in square feet) of classrooms, a description of science rooms/labs including ages and most recent updates, and a description of the media center/library (maximum of 5000 characters).

The basement houses 3 classrooms, a food service area, the teacher's room, a boy's bathroom, storage and the Boiler room. The first floor houses 5 classrooms, the girl's bathroom and a staff restroom. The second floor houses 5 classrooms plus the nurse's office. The third floor has 1 classroom, a computer lab, a library area, and the Principal's office. There is no dedicated science lab or classroom.

CAPACITY and UTILIZATION: Please provide a detailed description of the current capacity and utilization of the school facility. If the school is overcrowded, please describe steps taken by the administration to address capacity issues. Please also describe in detail any spaces that have been converted from their intended use to be used as classroom space (maximum of 5000 characters).

Every classroom in the building is occupied and classes are at full capacity, including three modified spaces in the basement. The school is anticipating the need for one additional classroom next school year, which will eliminate either the computer lab, library, or art/music classroom. Storage space is very limited, and at times, hallways are used to store equipment or other materials, creating a potential fire hazard.

MAINTENANCE and CAPITAL REPAIR: Please provide a detailed description of the district's current maintenance practices, its capital repair program, and the maintenance program in place at the facility that is the subject of this SOI. Please include specific examples of capital repair projects undertaken in the past, including any

override or debt exclusion votes that were necessary (maximum of 5000 characters).

The facility is maintained by the Department of Public Works, Scheduled maintenance of the HVAC system is by outside contracted vendor (Honeywell Systems). All other systems receive annual in-house maintenance during summer months when the facility is less active. Unscheduled maintenance is initiated by reports from school or custodial staff to a computerized work order system. Capital improvements such as the aforementioned roof and HVAC renovations are conducted as part of a continually evolving five-year Capital Improvements Plan. All projects are subject to funding availability. No previous works has required overrides or debt exclusion.

Priority 7

Question 1: Please provide a detailed description of the programs not currently available due to facility constraints, the state or local requirement for such programs, and the facility limitations precluding the programs from being offered.

The Brown School is not able to offer art, music, physical education, or science in specialized learning environments. State Requirements for these programs are for dedicated classrooms consistent with MSBA guidelines.

The Brown School is not wheelchair accessible, prohibiting any specialized program in the district from being located at the Brown. There is no gym which severely restricts the Physical Education program. P.E. classes are held in classrooms, or when weather permitting, outside in a paved school yard. No P.E. equipment is available at the Brown School. While the school department does meet the local and state requirement for P.E. at the Brown School, the program is not able to provide the same type of activities as at other schools in the district.

There is no kitchen or cafeteria at the Brown School. Lunches are prepared off-site and students eat lunch in their classrooms. The Brown School is limited in the menu served; for example, most elementary schools in the district provide a fresh salad bar. The Brown School is not able to provide this service. While the school foodservice department is able to meet all state and local requirements, the foodservice department is not able to provide the same type of meals as at other schools in the district.

Priority 7

Question 2: Please describe the measures the district has taken or is planning to take in the immediate future to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

Art, music and science are offered in a shared, inadequate space, Physical education is taught outside on an asphalt playground during acceptable weather and in the library during inclement weather. Lunches are prepared off site, transported to the school. Students eat lunch in their respective classrooms.

Due to the age and condition of the building, the school department has not taken any other action to significantly mitigate the problems described above.

Priority 7

Question 3: Please provide a detailed explanation of the impact of the problem described in this priority on your district's educational program. Please include specific examples of how the problem prevents the district from delivering the educational program it is required to deliver and how students and/or teachers are directly affected by the problem identified.

For art, music and science, lack of dedicated space prevents teachers from offering a full complement of subject activities that would be equitable and similar to those offered in schools which have such dedicated spaces. The same issues apply to physical education.

As stated above, the Physical Education program does not have a dedicated space. The P.E. teacher must provide instruction in classroom spaces that are not large enough or equipped to for P.E. classes. The inside classrooms are not large enough for students to participate in physical activity. The outside space has no equipment. The school lunch program has worked to bring in attractive and nutritious meals. Special baskets were purchased by the foodservice department to enable lunches to be more easily carried by young students to their classrooms.

Vote

Vote of Municipal Governing Body YES: NO: Date:

Vote of School Committee YES: NO: Date:

Vote of Regional School Committee YES: NO: Date:

REQUIRED FORM OF VOTE TO SUBMIT AN SOI

REQUIRED VOTES

If a City or Town, a vote in the following form is required from both the City Council/Board of Aldermen **OR** the Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body **AND** the School Committee.

If a regional school district, a vote in the following form is required from the Regional School Committee only. FORM OF VOTE Please use the text below to prepare your City's, Town's or District's required vote(s).

FORM OF VOTE

Please use the text below to prepare your City's, Town's or District's required vote(s).

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on _____, the

_____ [City Council/Board of Aldermen,

Board of Selectmen/Equivalent Governing Body/School Committee] of _____ [City/Town], in

accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated _____ for the

_____ [Name of School] located at

_____ [Address] which

describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future

_____ ; [Insert a description of the priority(s) checked off

on the Statement of Interest Form and a brief description of the deficiency described therein for each priority]; and hereby further

specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

CERTIFICATIONS

The undersigned hereby certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief, the statements and information contained in this statement of Interest and attached hereto are true and accurate and that this Statement of Interest has been prepared under the direction of the district school committee and the undersigned is duly authorized to submit this Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The undersigned also hereby acknowledges and agrees to provide the Massachusetts School Building Authority, upon request by the Authority, any additional information relating to this Statement of Interest that may be required by the Authority.

Chief Executive Officer ***School Committee Chair****Superintendent of Schools**_____
(print name)_____
(print name)_____
(print name)_____
(signature)_____
(signature)_____
(signature)_____
Date_____
Date_____
Date

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