



Anticipated Questions for the Statement of Interest/MSBA Process

July 26, 2022

I. Listening Sessions

1.) What will be done with input from the survey and listening sessions?

The facilitator will review the notes and feedback and draft a short summary of the themes, general areas of agreement, where there may be areas of disagreement, and participants' ideas of how they might be addressed.

For questions raised at the listening sessions, we will attempt to answer as many as possible within the time we have. The facilitator will record unanswered questions and give them to the School Committee and Superintendent. It is likely many questions will be addressed at later phases of the process. Questions that can be answered during the application process will be sorted into themes and answers will be posted online. Questions that relate to the feasibility study will be shared with any future building committee. Given the potential number of questions, individual responses should not be expected.

II. Developing The Statement of Interest (SOI) to MSBA

2.) Are one or two schools being considered?

At this time the School Committee wants to hear from the community. As a practical matter, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) rarely considers proposals for building two schools at the same time in one town. The School Committee will have to weigh this in relation to site locations, school size, community values, other capital improvements in the town and the financial impact of one or two schools on the taxpayers.

3.) How will the number of students impact the proposal for the Statement of Interest? What factors will be considered by the school committee in developing the SOI?

Any design will have to anticipate the number of project students. The school size will depend on grade configurations and other decisions (one school building, two school buildings, one school with separate areas to make it feel like two schools). The purpose of the early listening sessions is to gather community values and school characteristics for the committee to take into account as these decisions are made and to put forth the strongest SOI possible.

4.) How will the public be included going forward?

There will be a second set of listening sessions in the fall to reflect what the committee has heard and provide input on the direction the committee is heading and why. Hopefully that will result in a level of consensus that will strengthen the application to MSBA. If the SOI is accepted there will be further



opportunities for the public to weigh in and a building committee will be formed that may include representation from the public.

III. The Application Process

5.) What is the application for?

The application is acceptance into the MSBA's Core Program; the MSBA's process for evaluating applications [can be found here](#). This grant program funds a portion of the costs of study, analysis, and eventually, construction projects to improve the building conditions of schools across the Commonwealth.

6.) If Ipswich shows consensus via votes of elected officials and applies, is the application guaranteed to be accepted?

No, there are many more districts/towns that apply to the MSBA each year than can be funded.

7.) What happens if Ipswich submits a Statement of Interest and it is accepted?

The Town would have to appropriate funds for a full Feasibility/Schematic Design process. Then a Building Committee would be formed to lead that work, which can take up to 30 months. The full process can be found on the [MSBA website](#). A graphic that displays a typical timeline for the process is available.

9.) From the time a Statement of Interest is accepted, how long would it take for a building to be built or renovated?

According to the MSBA, the process takes 5-7 years in most communities.

10.) If the application is approved, when, how and on what topics can the public express its opinion?

The proposal includes a commitment to engage the community throughout the Feasibility process. Topics that will be under study in this process, and will include significant engagement, include:

- Grade configuration,
- Site for the school(s),
- Addition/Renovation or New Construction,
- Hiring of Consultants, and
- Specific Design Elements.

11.) What is the cost of waiting?

The current cost escalation in the school construction industry is 4% or more. Waiting a year would increase the cost of any future project by at least that amount.

Additionally, the district's five-year capital plan has requests for the current buildings of over a million



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dollars each year. While some of these requests will still be needed to maintain the buildings even if an SOI is approved, some of the major costs, such as more than \$4 million for the roofs of both buildings, could be deferred if both schools were addressed in one plan. Finally, there is the less tangible cost of students being in schools that are in poor condition and with outdated layouts.

IV. Future Decisions

12.) Who would be on a future Building Committee if the Statement of Interest is accepted?

The MSBA's template for who would be on a Building Committee [can be found here](#); their guidance includes the following positions (although it can certainly include additional roles):

- Member who is Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official (MCPPO) certified
- Local Chief Executive Officer, administrator or manager
- School committee member (minimum of one)
- Superintendent of schools
- Local official responsible for building maintenance
- Representative of office authorized by law to construct school buildings
- School principal
- Member knowledgeable in educational mission and function of facility
- Local budget official or member of local finance
- Community members with architecture, engineering and/or construction experience
- Other community members

13.) Where will the proposed school be located?

That determination would be made by a future School Building Committee based on evidence and data collected from prior work and the advice of designers who would be hired to assist in that process.

14.) Will the proposed school be built as new construction or as an addition/renovation?

That determination would be made by a future School Building Committee based on evidence and data collected from prior work and the advice of designers who would be hired to assist in that process.