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Massachusetts School Building Authority

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Executive Director

July 7, 2009

George Zini
Superintendent
Uxbridge Public Schools
21 South Main Street
Uxbridge, MA 01569

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
UXBRIDGE, MA

RE: Enrollment Projections for Uxbridge High School

Dear Superintendent Zini:

This letter is a follow up to previous correspondence regarding the design enrollment for Uxbridge High School. I want to thank you and your team again for working diligently with Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA") on enrollment projections, and your efforts to ensure that the design enrollment reflects the unique characteristics of your District.

A detailed explanation of the MSBA's base enrollment projection for Uxbridge has been provided through previous correspondence, and accordingly, has not been included as part of this communication. I would, however, like to detail additional sensitivity analysis that has been performed on the projection that has had an impact on the design enrollment recommendation previously communicated to the District.

As a result of continued discussions with the District concerning the occurrence and historical pattern of out-of-district school attendance by Uxbridge residents, the MSBA further reviewed the historical grade-to-grade cohort survival patterns of the District. Upon further review, the MSBA's analysis has indicated the following:

- The District's survival rates prior to the 8th to 9th grade survival rate are generally strong, and all are around 100% until 9th grade, at which time there is significant out-migration. The most recent 5 year average 8th to 9th grade survival rate of 68% reflects this significant occurrence.
- An incremental increase in out-of-district attendance is evident following the New England Association of Schools and Colleges ("NEASC") accreditation status changes in 2003 and 2004.
- Historical survival rate from 8th to 9th grade, using 10 years of data prior to NEASC accreditation warning, is 80.2%.
 - Both the five and ten year average for the 8th to 9th grade survival rate preceding the NEASC "Warning", in 2003, reflect survival rates over 80%.

- The number of Uxbridge residents attending public school outside of the District through the "School Choice" program in grades K-12 represented approximately 3.5% of the total District enrollment in the five years immediately preceding the NEASC "Warning", and presently reflects approximately 12% of total K-12 enrollment in the most recent five years following the NEASC "Warning" in 2003.

Further consideration of these factors has informed the updated design enrollment recommendation. The MSBA has applied a further assumption to the modified enrollment projection to account for a return of the 8th to 9th grade survival rate to the District's historical average prior to the NEASC "Warning" in 2003 and subsequent status change to "Probation" in 2004. The assumption of an 80% 8th to 9th grade survival rate has been assumed in the updated design enrollment recommendation, and accounts for the increase in the design enrollment as compared to the previously communicated recommendation.

Based on the adjustments described above and the analysis of the District's enrollment communicated in previous correspondence, the MSBA recommends a design enrollment of 600 students for the Uxbridge High School.

As we progress forward with this project, the MSBA looks forward to working with the District to ensure the solution for this facility contemplates the unique enrollment fluctuations that have presented challenges during this design enrollment process.

Please sign and return the attached certification to confirm agreement on this design enrollment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kathleen Timmins (Kathleen.Timmins@MassSchoolBuildings.org) at 617-720-4466. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Mary Pichetti
Director of Capital Planning

CC Senator Richard Moore
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 File: 1.2 Enrollment Projections