



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: #VII.A.

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

Date: April 14, 2010

Subject: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Design and Funding Approval Consideration*; AOS 93/Jefferson School Department, New Jefferson PreK-8 school construction project.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Jefferson Village School will be constructed in Jefferson, Maine, and house 287 students, grades preK through grade 8. The project received Concept Approval on April 15, 2009. The subsequent referendum passed with a 72% vote in favor of the project.

The Jefferson School construction project was 14th on the 2004-2005 Rating Cycle for major capital construction projects. It was difficult to find a buildable site in Jefferson and after a lengthy search the present school site was the only option. The present school will be torn down once the new school has been built. The new school will be energy efficient, will be heated with wood, and will be sited to take advantage of natural sunlight.

The Design and Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to MRSA Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

The basic design of the project and budget have not changed since Concept Approval, and it has met the needed criteria to move forward which will allow it to be bonded and constructed on schedule.

AOS 93/Jefferson School Department is requesting Design and Funding Approval for an elementary school qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, and

- The Jefferson elementary proposed school construction project is eligible for school construction under MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 609;
- The proposed project and authorized method of financing are in the best interest of the State of Maine and AOS 93/Jefferson School Department.
- The Jefferson School Department estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and

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- The AOS 93/Jefferson School Department proposed project is in compliance with MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to special education facilities.

Project Information

Project: Jefferson Elementary School
Superintendent: Robert Bouchard
Principal: Peter Gallace
Architect: Oak Point Associates
School(s) to be closed: Jefferson Village School

Project Budget Information

Concept Approval Date: April 15, 2009
Total Project Cost: \$18,613,494
Local Only (no State participation): \$263,106
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$18,202,573
Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$147,815

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Construction Committee will consider this Design and Funding Approval request at its April 5, 2010, meeting.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to AOS 93/Jefferson School Department for a new preK-8 school in Jefferson, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the design and funding budget as presented.**

*Prepared by the School Facilities Services Team

**This approval constitutes Design & Funding Approval. Final Funding Approval may be subject to adjustment under Section 10, Subsection 1, of the State Board of Education *Rules for School Construction Projects*, which states:

“Final Funding Approval by the Commissioner establishes the Project Budget and takes place after construction bids have been received. At that time, the Commissioner may reduce the budget to finance the project, thus providing additional funds for other projects.”