



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a Special Board meeting on December 21, 2009, at The Department of Education, Augusta, Maine. The following members were present: Chair Ann Weisleder; Vice Chair James Banks, Sr.; Marilyn Temple Tardy; Lynda Doyle; Jeffrey Vermette; and Steven Pound.

Excused: James Carignan; Mabel Desmond; Nancy Perkins; Honor Wilkinson; and Andrea Levinsky.

Also present were: Deputy Commissioner Angela Faherty; Scott Brown, AIA, School Facilities; and Mary Becker, Secretary Associate.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Ann Weisleder called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM.

SPECIAL ORDERS (Important business previously designated for consideration):

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; DESIGN AND FUNDING APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; RSU 9; NEW PREK-3 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN FARMINGTON, MAINE.

STATEMENT OF FACT: The new preK-3 elementary school will be constructed in Farmington, Maine, and house 400 students, grades preK through 3. The project received Concept Approval on November 12, 2008. The subsequent referendum passed with an 84% vote in favor of the project.

There have been slight changes to the Concept design to simplify the plan and make it a better fit for a small urban site.

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.

RSU 9 is requesting Design and Funding Approval for a new preK-3 elementary school qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, and

- RSU 9 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 RSU 9;
- RSU 9 estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and
- RSU 9 proposed project is in compliance with MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to special education facilities.

Project Information

Project: New PreK-3 School
 Superintendent: Dr. Michael Cormier
 Principal: Ms. Tracy Williams
 Architect: Steve Blatt, Stephen Blatt Architects
 School(s) to be closed: Mallett Elementary School

Project Budget Information

Concept Approval Date: November 12, 2008
 Total Project Cost: \$18,900,000
 Local Only (no State participation): \$75,000
 Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$18,675,000
 Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$150,000

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On November 30, 2009, the Construction Committee voted to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to RSU #9 for a new preK-3 school in Farmington.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to RSU 9 for a new preK-3 school in Farmington, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the design and funding budget as presented.**

**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.”

MOVED by James Banks, Sr., seconded by Marilyn Tardy, and unanimously voted by those present to grant Design and Funding Approval to RSU #9 for a new preK-3 elementary school in Farmington, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the Design and Funding Budget as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- That the next regular State Board of Education meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, in room 103 of the Cross State Office Building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Dr. Judith Jones commented that she attended the meeting today in support of any public school options, public school choices, and public innovation in terms of Race to the Top. She would like more information on what the Board might be thinking about. Ann Weisleder, Chair of the SBE said the Board has begun conversation in regards to Race to the Top and conversation is also taking place in several other venues, but is not part of today's Board agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by James Banks, Sr., seconded by Marilyn Tardy, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the December 21, 2009, State Board of Education meeting at 11:01 AM.