# Massachusetts School Building Authority

Deborah B. Goldberg

James A. MacDonald

John K. McCarthy

Chairman, State Treasurer

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director / Deputy CEO

June 4, 2018

Mr. Thomas J. Melia Northbridge Board of Selectmen Northbridge Town Hall 7 Main Street Wittinsville, MA 01588

Re: Town of Northbridge, W. Edward Balmer Elementary School

Dear Mr. Melia:

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") is forwarding review comments of the Schematic Design submission for the W. Edward Balmer Elementary School project received by the MSBA on May 8, 2018.

Responses to the attached comments shall be forwarded to the assigned Project Coordinator, Jennifer Flynn (Jennifer.Flynn@MassSchoolBuildings.org) through the Owner's Project Manager. Please review and return responses within 14 days of receipt of this letter.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Fernando Garcia (Fernando.Garcia@MassSchoolBuildings.org).

Sincerely,

Mary Pichetti

Director of Capital Planning

Attachments:

Attachment 'A' Preferred Schematic Report Review Comments

Attachment 'B' Preferred Schematic Report Space Summary Review

Cc: Legislative Delegation

Charles Ampagoomian, Jr., Chair, Northbridge Board of Selectmen

Adam Gaudette, Northbridge Town Manager

Page 2 June 4, 2018 Northbridge Schematic Design Review Comments

> Michael LeBrasseur, Chair, Northbridge School Committee Dr. Catherine A. Stickney, Superintendent, Northbridge Public Schools Melissa Walker, Director of Business and Finance, Northbridge Public Schools Josepha Strazzula, Chair, Northbridge School Building Committee Joel G. Seeley, Owner's Project Manager, Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, Inc. Lee P. Dore, Designer, Dore & Whitter Architects, Inc.

File: 10.2 Letters (Region 2)

## ATTACHMENT A MODULE 4 – SCHEMATIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMENTS

**District:** Town of Northbridge

School: W. Edward Balmer Elementary School

Owner's Project Manager: SMMA Project Management

**Designer Firm:** Dore & Whittier Architects

**Submittal Due Date:** May 9, 2018 **Submittal Received Date:** May 8, 2018

**Review Date**: May 10-30, 2018

Reviewed by: Gienapp Design, F. Garcia, C. Alles, J. Jumpe

## **MSBA REVIEW COMMENTS**

The following comments<sup>1</sup> on the Schematic Design submittal are issued pursuant to a review of the project submittal document for the new construction of the proposed project and presented as a Schematic Design submission in accordance with the MSBA Module 4 Guidelines.

#### 4.1 SCHEMATIC DESIGN SUBMITTAL

Overview of the Schematic Design Submittal	Complete	Provided; Refer to comments following each section	Not Provided; Refer to comments following each section	Receipt of District's Response; To be filled out by MSBA Staff
Schematic Design Submittal Notification	$\boxtimes$			
OPM Certification of Completeness and Conformity	$\boxtimes$			
4.1.1 DESE Submittal		$\boxtimes$		
4.1.2 Schematic Design Binder		$\boxtimes$		
4.1.3 Schematic Design Project Manual		$\boxtimes$		
4.1.4 Schematic Design Drawings		$\boxtimes$		

Note that Module Four states that "MSBA will not accept incomplete submittals, submittals that have not been reviewed by the OPM or submittals for which the estimated project costs exceed the District's project budget. Updates to the Total Project Budget that do not reflect the scope and schedule represented in the Schematic Design submittal will not be accepted. All value engineering activities must be complete, and the results incorporated into the Schematic Design documentation prior to being submitted to the MSBA."

Module 4 – SD Review Comments

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The written comments provided by the MSBA are solely for purposes of determining whether the submittal documents, analysis process, proposed planning concept and any other design documents submitted for MSBA review appear consistent with the MSBA's guidelines and requirements, and are not for the purpose of determining whether the proposed design and its process may meet any legal requirements imposed by federal, state or local law, including, but not limited to, zoning ordinances and by-laws, environmental regulations, building codes, sanitary codes, safety codes and public procurement laws or for the purpose of determining whether the proposed design and process meet any applicable professional standard of care or any other standard of care. Project designers are obligated to implement detailed planning and technical review procedures to effect coordination of design criteria, buildability, and technical adequacy of project concepts. Each city, town and regional school district shall be solely responsible for ensuring that its project development concepts comply with all applicable provisions of federal, state, and local law. The MSBA recommends that each city, town and regional school district have its legal counsel review its development process and subsequent bid documents to ensure that it is in compliance with all provisions of federal, state and local law, prior to bidding. The MSBA shall not be responsible for any legal fees or costs of any kind that may be incurred by a city, town or regional school district in relation to MSBA requirements or the preparation and review of the project's planning process or plans and specifications.

## 4.1.1 DESE SUBMISSION

	Provide the following Items	Complete; No response required	Provided; District's response required	Not Provided; District's response required	Receipt of District's Response; To be filled out by MSBA Staff
1	Cover Letter	$\boxtimes$			
2	Special Education Delivery Methodology Letter	$\boxtimes$			
3	Signed Educational Space Summary	$\boxtimes$			
4	Floor Plans	$\boxtimes$			
5	Special Education Adjacency Table	$\boxtimes$			

## **MSBA Review Comments:**

Please note the Special Education information has been forwarded to DESE for review and approval.

No further review comments for this section.

## 4.1.2 SCHEMATIC DESIGN BINDER

	Provide the following Items	Complete; No response required	Provided; District's response required	Not Provided; District's response required	Receipt of District's Response To be filled out by MSBA Staff
1	Introduction				
	a) Summary of the MSBA approved Preferred Schematic	$\boxtimes$			
	b) Community outreach overview	$\boxtimes$			
	c) The District's Total Project Budget for the proposed project	$\boxtimes$			
	d) Updated description of the project	$\boxtimes$			
	e) Site Plan, Floor Plans, and Elevations	$\boxtimes$			
	f) A copy of the MSBA Preferred Schematic Report review and corresponding District response	$\boxtimes$			
2	Final Design Program				
	a) General and specific architectural characteristics desired	$\boxtimes$			
	b) Educational space summary spreadsheets		$\boxtimes$		
	c) Narrative of how the proposed educational space summary supports the educational program	$\boxtimes$			
	d) Instructional technology (existing and proposed)	$\boxtimes$			
	e) Functional relationships and critical adjacencies that informed the basis of design	$\boxtimes$			
	f) Security and visual access requirements		$\boxtimes$		

Module 4 – SD Review Comments

	Provide the following Items	Complete; No response required	Provided; District's response required	Not Provided; District's response required	Receipt of District's Response To be filled out by MSBA Staff
	g) Site development requirements	$\boxtimes$			
	h) Description of desired features of the school	$\boxtimes$			
3	Traffic Analysis	$\boxtimes$			
4	Environmental and Existing Building Assessment	$\boxtimes$			
5	Geotechnical and Geo-environmental Analysis		$\boxtimes$		
6	Code Analysis and List of Permitting and other Regulatory Filing Requirements	$\boxtimes$			
7	Utility Analysis and Soils Analysis for on-site septic/sewage treatment facilities	$\boxtimes$			
8	Massing Study	$\boxtimes$			
9	Narrative Building Systems Descriptions				
	a) Sustainable design elements	$\boxtimes$			
	b) Building structure	$\boxtimes$			
	c) Plumbing and HVAC	$\boxtimes$			
	d) Fire Protection	$\boxtimes$			
	e) Verify adequate water capacity for new system	$\boxtimes$			
	f) Confirm if a fire pump will be required	$\boxtimes$			
	g) Electrical	$\boxtimes$			
	h) Information Technology	$\boxtimes$			
10	Sustainable Building Design Guideline Documents	$\boxtimes$			
11	Analysis of the design's compliance with ADA and the MAAB	$\boxtimes$			
12	Timeline associated with filing the Project Notification Form with Massachusetts Historical Commission ("MHC") and obtaining MHC approval prior to construction bids.				
13	Room Data Sheets		$\boxtimes$		
14	Proposed construction methodology (DBB / CMR)	$\boxtimes$			
15	District's anticipated reimbursement rate w/ incentive points	$\boxtimes$			
16	Total Project Budget spreadsheet and summary of cost reconciliation of the Designer's and OPM's estimates.	$\boxtimes$			
17	Designer's Construction Cost Estimate	$\boxtimes$			
18	Independent OPM Construction Cost Estimate	$\boxtimes$			
19	Updated Project Work Plan – indicating changes	$\boxtimes$			
	a) Project Directory	$\boxtimes$			
	b) Roles and Responsibilities	$\boxtimes$			
	c) Communications and Document Control Procedures	$\boxtimes$			

	Provide the following Items	Complete; No response required	Provided; District's response required	Not Provided; District's response required	Receipt of District's Response To be filled out by MSBA Staff
	d) Designer's Work Plan Project Schedule	$\boxtimes$			
20	Local Actions and Approvals Certification				
	a) Completed and signed certification	$\boxtimes$			
	b) SBC meeting dates, agendas, and attendees	$\boxtimes$			
	c) Certified SBC meeting notes with vote language and vote results	$\boxtimes$			
	d) Description of materials presented at such SBC meetings and where those materials may be viewed	$\boxtimes$			

#### **MSBA Review Comments:**

- 2b) Please refer to 'Attachment B' for detailed review comments.
- 2f) The submittal indicates there is vehicular access to the perimeter of the building and multiple locations for safety or fire responders to access the building. However, it is not clear if emergency signage, knox boxes, or other emergency provisions have been incorporated into the scope. Please provide the additional clarification as part of the District's response to these review comments.
- 5) The submittal indicates the Geo-Environmental Consultant recommends further follow-up testing to be performed in the soils surrounding the existing underground storage tank as a precaution for presence of fuel oil contaminants. Additionally, the submittal states based on the results of the geotechnical analysis; there were no observations of any adverse conditions. Please note, as stated during the Preliminary Design Program submittal, all costs associated with abatement of contaminated soil from any source, and abatement and removal of fuel storage tanks must be itemized in the cost estimates and will be considered ineligible for MSBA reimbursement. Please acknowledge.
- 13) The room data sheets do not appear to include security features or acoustic requirements. In the District's response to these review comments, please provide updated room data sheets that include security features, acoustic requirements or a descriptive narrative stating no features will be proposed.

No further review comments for this section.

#### 4.1.3 SCHEMATIC DESIGN PROJECT MANUAL

	Provide the following Items	Complete; No response required	Provided; District's response required	Not Provided; District's response required	Receipt of District's Response; To be filled out by MSBA Staff
1	Outline specifications in Uniformat Divisions	$\boxtimes$			
2	Itemization of all proprietary items (if any) with an explanation of each, explanation of the public interest for each item, and certification of local authorization that each item complies with state and local regulations, policies and guidelines.		$\boxtimes$		

## **MSBA Review Comments:**

2) Please clarify if the District intends to propose proprietary items and provide the information listed above regarding proprietary items. If no propriety items are anticipated, please acknowledge accordingly as part of the District's response to these review comments. No further review comments for this section.

## 4.1.4 SCHEMATIC DESIGN DRAWINGS

	Provide the following Items	Complete; No response required	Provided; District's response required	Not Provided; District's response required	Receipt of District's Response; To be filled out by MSBA Staff
1	Existing site plan	$\boxtimes$			
2	Site development plan		$\boxtimes$		
3	Schematic building floor plans	$\boxtimes$			
4	Interior elevations of a typical general classroom, and typical Pre-K/K Classroom and typical Science Classroom/Lab as applicable.	$\boxtimes$			
5	Schematic exterior building elevations		$\boxtimes$		

#### **MSBA Review Comments:**

- 2) Please provide updated site development plans that indicate future areas for potential expansion as part of the District's response to these review comments.
- 5) Please consider how the inclusion of projecting type windows in first floor locations where adjacent to play areas may pose a potential hazard. Please acknowledge.

No further review comments for this section.

Module 4 – SD Review Comments 5

## **Additional Comments:**

• The MSBA issues project advisories from time to time, as informational updates for Districts, Owner's Project Managers (OPM's), and Designers in an effort to facilitate the efficient and effective administration of proposed projects currently pending review by the MSBA. The advisories can be found on the MSBA's website. In response to these review comments, please confirm that the District's consultants have reviewed all project advisories and they have been incorporated into the proposed project as applicable.

## End

## ATTACHMENT B MODULE 4 – SCHEMATIC DESIGN SPACE SUMMARY REVIEW

**District:** Town of Northbridge

School: W. Edward Balmer Elementary School

Owner's Project Manager: SMMA Project Management

**Designer Firm:** Dore & Whittier Architects

**Submittal Due Date:** May 9, 2018 **Submittal Received Date:** May 8, 2018

**Review Date**: May 10-30, 2018

Reviewed by: C. Clement, A. Waldron, F. Garcia, C. Alles, J. Jumpe

The following comments<sup>1</sup> on the Schematic Design submittal are issued pursuant to a review of the project submittal document for the new construction of the proposed project and presented as a Schematic Design submission in accordance with the MSBA Module 4 Guidelines.

The MSBA considers it critical that the Districts and their Designers aggressively pursue design strategies to achieve compliance with the MSBA guidelines for all proposed projects in the new program and strive to meet the gross square footage allowed per student and the core classroom space standards, as outlined in the guidelines. The MSBA also considers its stance on core classroom space critical to its mission of supporting the construction of successful school projects throughout the Commonwealth that meet current and future educational demands. The MSBA does not want to see this critical component of education suffer at the expense of larger or grander spaces that are not directly involved in the education of students.

The following review is based on a new construction project with an agreed upon design enrollment of 1,030 students in grades Pre-K-5.

#### The MSBA review comments are as follows:

• Core Academic – The District is proposing to provide a total of 62,850 net square feet (nsf) which exceeds the MSBA guidelines by 18,100 nsf. The proposed area in this category has decreased by 2,150 nsf since the Preferred Schematic Report submittal. The MSBA notes the following variations to guidelines:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The written comments provided by the MSBA are solely for purposes of determining whether the submittal documents, analysis process, proposed planning concept and any other design documents submitted for MSBA review appear consistent with the MSBA's guidelines and requirements, and are not for the purpose of determining whether the proposed design and its process may meet any legal requirements imposed by federal, state or local law, including, but not limited to, zoning ordinances and by-laws, environmental regulations, building codes, sanitary codes, safety codes and public procurement laws or for the purpose of determining whether the proposed design and process meet any applicable professional standard of care or any other standard of care. Project designers are obligated to implement detailed planning and technical review procedures to effect coordination of design criteria, buildability, and technical adequacy of project concepts. Each city, town and regional school district shall be solely responsible for ensuring that its project development concepts comply with all applicable provisions of federal, state, and local law. The MSBA recommends that each city, town and regional school district have its legal counsel review its development process and subsequent bid documents to ensure that it is in compliance with all provisions of federal, state and local law, prior to bidding. The MSBA shall not be responsible for any legal fees or costs of any kind that may be incurred by a city, town or regional school district in relation to MSBA requirements or the preparation and review of the project's planning process or plans and specifications.

- 6,850 nsf of this overage is due to the inclusion of (4) four 1,200 nsf Pre-Kindergarten classrooms, (1) one additional 1,200 nsf Kindergarten classroom, and (3) three 900 nsf general classrooms above guidelines.
   Based on the information provided, these proposed spaces are consistent with the delivery of the District's educational program. No further action required.
- O 9,900 nsf of this overage is due to the inclusion of (7) seven 500 nsf Teacher Planning areas, (6) six 1,000 nsf K-5 Extended Learning areas, and (1) one 400 nsf Pre-K Extended Learning area. Based on the information provided these proposed spaces are consistent with the delivery of the District's educational program. The MSBA accepts this variation to the guidelines.
- 0 1,350 nsf of this overage is due to one 1,200 nsf Maker Space and 150 nsf associated storage. As previously indicated, the MSBA accepts one 1,200 nsf Maker Space/Project Room and a 150 nsf associated storage space. Based on the information provided, the MSBA accepts this variation to the guidelines. No further action required.
- Special Education The District is proposing to provide a total of 13,530 net square feet (nsf) which exceeds the MSBA guidelines by 2,460 nsf. The proposed area in this category has decreased by 115 nsf since the Preferred Schematic Report submittal. Please note that the Special Education program is subject to approval by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and that formal approval of the District's proposed Special Education program is a prerequisite for executing a Project Funding Agreement with the MSBA.
- Art & Music— The District is proposing to provide a total of 5,150 nsf which is 2,425 nsf below the MSBA guidelines. The proposed area in this category has not changed since the Preferred Schematic Report submittal. Based on the information provided and the District's confirmation that the proposed square footage is sufficient in order to deliver their educational program, the MSBA accepts this variation to the guidelines. No further action required.
- **Health and Physical Education** The District is proposing to provide a total of 6,298 nsf which is 2 nsf below the MSBA guidelines. The proposed area in this category has decreased by 2 nsf since the Preferred Schematic Report submittal. The MSBA accepts this variation to the guidelines. No further action required.
- **Media Center** The District is proposing to provide a total of 5,305 nsf which meets the MSBA guidelines. The proposed area in this category has increased by 2 nsf since the Preferred Schematic Report submittal. No further action required.
- **Dining & Food Service** The District is proposing to provide a total of 11,955 nsf which is 1 nsf below the MSBA guidelines. The proposed area in this category

has not changed since the Preferred Schematic Report submittal. No further action required.

- **Medical** The District is proposing to provide a total of 810 nsf which meets the MSBA guidelines. The proposed area in this category not changed since the Preferred Schematic Report submittal. No further action required.
- Administration & Guidance The District is proposing to provide a total of 3,040 nsf which is 125 nsf below the MSBA guidelines. The proposed area in this category has decreased by 250 nsf since the Preferred Schematic Report submittal. This decrease is due to moving the Team Chair space to the Special Education category as requested by the MSBA. The MSBA accepts this variation to the guidelines.
- Custodial & Maintenance The District is proposing to provide a total of 2,630 nsf which meets the MSBA guidelines. The proposed area in this category has not changed since the Preferred Schematic Report submittal. No further action required.
- Other The District is not proposing to provide any additional square footage in this category. The proposed area has decreased by 500 nsf since the Preferred Schematic Report submittal due to the elimination of the Family and Community Resource Center. No further action required.
- Total Building Net Floor Area The District is proposing to provide a total of 111,568 nsf which exceeds the MSBA guidelines by 18,007 nsf. The proposed area has decreased by 2,785 nsf since the Preferred Schematic Report submittal. Based on the comments provided above, the MSBA accepts this variation to the guidelines. No further action required.
- Total Building Gross Floor Area The District is proposing to provide a total of 167,352 gsf which exceeds the MSBA guidelines by 18,002 gsf. The proposed area has decreased by 4,178 gsf since the Preferred Schematic Report submittal. Based on the comments provided above, the MSBA accepts this variation to the guidelines. No further action required.

Please note that upon moving forward into subsequent phases of the proposed project, the Designer will be required to provide, with each submission, a signed, updated space summary that reflects the design and demonstrates that the design remains, except as agreed to in writing by the MSBA, in accordance with the guidelines, rules, regulations and policies of the MSBA. Should the updated space summary demonstrate changes to the previous space summary include a narrative description of the change(s) and the reason for the proposed changes to the project.