



Massachusetts School Building Authority

Deborah B. Goldberg
Chair, State Treasurer

James A. MacDonald
Chief Executive Officer

Mary L. Pichetti
Executive Director / Deputy CEO

December 13, 2023

The Honorable Katjana Ballantyne, Mayor
City of Somerville
Mayor's Office
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: City of Somerville, Winter Hill Community School

Dear Mayor Ballantyne:

I am pleased to report that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the “MSBA”) Board of Directors has voted to invite the Statement of Interest (the “SOI”) for the Winter Hill Community School in the City of Somerville (the “City”) into the MSBA’s Eligibility Period. The invitation for the Winter Hill Community School is for grades Pre-K through grade 8 and the potential during the feasibility study to examine the consolidation of the Winter Hill Community School with the Brown Elementary School to serve grades Pre-K through grade 8.

The 270-day Eligibility Period formalizes and streamlines the beginning of the MSBA’s grant approval process and benefits the City by providing a definitive schedule for the completion of preliminary requirements, assisting with the determination of financial and community readiness, and identifying needs for planning and budgeting. Successful completion of all activities in the Eligibility Period will allow the City to be eligible for an MSBA invitation to Feasibility Study.

Invitation into the Eligibility Period is *not* an invitation to Feasibility Study. Moving forward in the MSBA’s process requires collaboration with the MSBA, and an invitation to Feasibility Study will require a further vote of the MSBA Board of Directors. Communities that “get ahead” of the MSBA without MSBA approval will not be eligible for grant funding. Additionally, the City’s vote by the Board of Directors approving a potential grant will be no sooner than July 1, 2026. To qualify for any funding from the MSBA, local communities must follow the MSBA’s statute and regulations, which require MSBA partnership and approval at each step of the process.

The City’s Eligibility Period will commence on March 4, 2024 and conclude on November 29, 2024. During this time, the City must complete the preliminary requirements in accordance with the schedule on page three of this letter. The first item that requires completion by the City is the Initial Compliance Certification, which will be sent to the City electronically two weeks prior to its commencement date, on February 20, 2024.

The ability of the City to complete the preliminary requirements within the 270 days does not guarantee an invitation into the MSBA Capital Pipeline. Further, if the City cannot complete the preliminary requirements within the 270-day Eligibility Period, the MSBA will require the City to withdraw its SOI, and the City will

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Somerville, Winter Hill Community School Eligibility Period Board Action Letter

have to re-file an SOI during the next open SOI filing period and/or when the City has the required financial and community support.

If the City has concerns about meeting any of the deadlines set forth on page three of this letter, please notify the MSBA in writing by March 4, 2024. If you have questions or would like additional information regarding the Eligibility Period, please refer to our website and/or contact Sarah Przybylowicz at the MSBA (Sarah.Przybylowicz@MassSchoolBuildings.org).

I look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the MSBA's grant program process. As always, feel free to contact me or my staff at (617) 720-4466 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Pichetti
Executive Director

Cc: Legislative Delegation
Ben Ewen-Campen, President, Somerville City Council
Ilana Krepchin, Chair, Somerville School Committee
Dr. Ruben Carmona, Superintendent, Somerville Public Schools
Richard E. Raiche, Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management, City of Somerville
Jackie Piques, Chief Communications and Development Officer, Somerville Public Schools
File: 10.2 Letters (Region 4)

Eligibility Period Schedule of Deliverables

City of Somerville Winter Hill Community School

MSBA Board of Director Meeting – December 13, 2023

Eligibility Period Commences – March 4, 2024		
MODULE ONE - Eligibility Period		
Deliverable	Days	Due Date and Status
Initial Compliance Certification	30	April 4, 2024 Required
School Building Committee	60	May 3, 2024 Required
Educational Profile Questionnaire	90	June 3, 2024 Required
Online Enrollment Projection	90	June 3, 2024 Required
Enrollment Meeting Held	180	August 30, 2024 Required
Maintenance and Capital Planning Information	180	August 30, 2024 Required
Local Vote Authorization	270	November 29, 2024 Required
Feasibility Study Agreement	270	November 29, 2024 Required
Eligibility Period Concludes – November 29, 2024		

Note: If the City has concerns about meeting any of the following deadlines, please let the MSBA know by March 4, 2024. The MSBA will require districts that are unable to complete the preliminary requirements within the timeframes noted for each to withdraw its SOI and reapply when the City has the financial and community support required.