

Jess Deleconio
Project Coordinator
Massachusetts School Building Authority
40 Broad Street, Suite 500
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June 7, 2016

RE: Somerville HS Preliminary Design Program Updates

Dear Ms. Deleconio:

In advance of the upcoming Facilities Assessment Subcommittee meeting for the Somerville High School Project, we wish to provide the MSBA with relevant updates and clarifications relevant to the District's Preliminary Design Program submission and response to MSBA comments.

On May 24, 2016 a conference call occurred to review the proposed Next Wave / Full Circle programs relocation to the new Somerville High School. On the call were representatives from DESE, MSBA, City of Somerville, PMA and SMMA. The intent of the call, as outlined by the MSBA's DESE liaison, Matt Deninger, was to 1) to determine what was best for students enrolled in these programs and the overall approach for implementation, and 2) to ensure that this was the right use of state reimbursement funds prior to spending taxpayer dollars on additional program space in the new High School building. District representatives Superintendent Skipper and Tony Pierantozzi outlined the existing model for the program, along with some of the challenges that the current location poses. Numerous benefits of the proposed plan were discussed at length, including having access to the High School facilities, removing any perceived facility inequity, lessening the impact of transition from Next Wave to Full Circle if both programs are at the same location, ability to retain existing relationships during that transition and the age compatibility that Next Wave students often share with the younger students in a traditional High School program.

DESE noted that they were compelled by the equity issues noted by Tony Pierantozzi and the potentially less restrictive nature of the program as detailed by Superintendent Skipper. DESE also noted that they could see that the proposed changes may lead to more innovation & collaboration. On DESE's end what had been laid out in



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the District's response and on the conference call made sense and DESE expressed belief that the proposed plan will afford these students more opportunities for time & learning, fewer transitions on a shuttle, and more equity in general. As the program goes forward DESE would like to really define the program (public day school vs alternative school) and possibly move away from the concept of a public day school, as it may become more of an alternative school within a school. MSBA DESE liaison Matt Deninger added that as long as the IEP's and the parents are okay with this approach then the team just needs to think of shifting away from a public day setting and to more of an alternative setting, this does not need to be evaluated now, but perhaps later in the design. Mr. Deninger closed by expressing his support for this plan and thanked the District for their time and thorough responses.

The following week, on June 1, 2016, representatives from Somerville Public Schools met with representatives from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to review and discuss certain components contained within the district's February 29, 2016 Preliminary Design Program submission and May 2, 2016 response to MSBA PDP Comments. DESE representatives present at this meeting included Ramona Bass, Gary Gomes and Dr. Judith Klimikieicz. The following program clarifications are being provided as a result of that meeting.

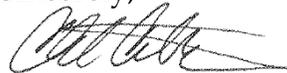
- **PDP Section 2.14A:** The CTE Exploratory program is incorrectly identified as a Non-Chapter 74 Program. In fact, there are a total of 14 existing CTE programs, one of which is the aforementioned Exploratory program.
- **Response to MSBA Comment 1D:** There are currently 14 CTE programs, 13 shops plus the Exploratory program. In the 2014/2015 school year, the painting and decorating shop was closed.
- **Response to MSBA Comment 1E:** The District intends to increase the number of existing Career Technical Education ("CTE") programs by two new programs, HVAC and Plumbing, and by adding sub-specialties to the existing Health Careers and Cosmetology programs. The proposed sub-specialty for Cosmetology is Barbering, the sub-specialties to Health Careers are proposed to be Geriatric Specialty, Health Assisting, First Aid, CPR and EMT. Although select CTE programs may appear to be under enrolled, the district and the MSBA have agreed to construct a building to accommodate an increase in student population that is projected and has been documented in the District's enrollment certification. The percentage of students in CTE programs has not declined, to the contrary the percentage of students in CTE programs has actually increased in recent years. Therefore when the population of Somerville High School grows, the increase in number of CTE students is

likely to grow at an even greater rate. We also wish to clarify that there are 14 current CTE programs being offered at Somerville HS.

- **Response to MSBA Comment 3.1.2D:** Replace “Blocks” with “Periods.” Somerville has a total of 6 Periods in their schedule. Period #1 is 67 minutes long, while Periods #2 through #6 are each 55 minutes Long.
- **Response to MSBA Comment 3.1.2H(IV):** Currently, all CTE programs exceed the approved capacity for student/teacher ratio, with the exception of Architectural Design & Drafting, Culinary Arts, Dental Assisting, Electrical, and Machine Technology. The shops that are under approved capacity are each within 1 to 6 students of the approved capacity. The anticipated increase in student enrollment outlined in the above response to comment 1E is also relevant to this section.

We hope that these updates are helpful to the MSBA and DESE and look forward to meeting with the MSBA’s Facilities Assessment Committee in the coming weeks. An updated space summary in alignment with these clarifications and a reduced total building area is forthcoming; in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Chad Crittenden
Director | Senior Project Manager
PMA Consultants, LLC