



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education

350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-5023

Telephone: (781) 338-3000

November 14, 2002

Harry K. Harutunian, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
82 Oakland Road
Post Office Box 180
Reading, MA 01867

Dear Superintendent Harutunian:

I am writing as a follow-up to our recent meeting to discuss construction and renovation options at *Reading Memorial High School*. You have submitted feasibility studies dated in 1997, 2000 and 2002 to document the educational and structural inefficiencies at the school. Each of these studies, provide recommendations for construction and renovation based on the information available at the time.

The most recent study proposes one of three options:

- 1) renovation of the complete building
- 2) substantial renovation of the building with the demolition of the maintenance area (former Industrial Arts and
- 3) replacement of the 1953 academic wing and substantial renovation of the remainder of the building.

Based on enrollment projections, the existing square footage of the building exceeds the square footage allowed under the School Building Assistance (SBA) regulations. The building has many structural and educational inefficiencies, has poor circulation patterns and is in need of major repair to meet code and educational standards. There appears to be little use of the total square footage of the area now used for maintenance. Demolition of this wing would not impact the space requirements of the SBA regulations and would appear to improve traffic flow and parking. Demolition and replacement of the academic wing would allow for more efficient phasing of the construction plan, would correct educational and structural deficiencies and would improve safety, traffic patterns and the efficiency and circulation of the building.

All of your feasibility studies have outlined in greater detail the benefits of each of these proposed plans. The cost for each of the three options has been estimated within a range of two million dollars.

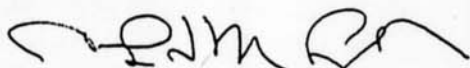
You have asked whether any of these three proposals could be submitted under the SBA Program. As you know and as we have discussed, the SBA program encourages maintaining existing school buildings through renovation projects. Based on the information before us, we

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believe that each of these options might constitute a viable renovation plan. Although each proposal that is submitted to meet the December 1 deadline will be evaluated based on the criteria, process and fiscal limitations of the program, we would be willing to entertain any of the options presented above with the appropriate local approvals.

I wish you good luck with your construction planning and would be happy to discuss this issue or any other issue related to the SBA application process with you at any time.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CMLynch', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christine M. Lynch
Administrator
School Building Assistance

c: Sid Bowen, Flansburgh Associates
Application File