



Massachusetts School Building Authority

Deborah B. Goldberg
Chairman, State Treasurer

James A. MacDonald
Chief Executive Officer

John K. McCarthy
Executive Director / Deputy CEO

November 14, 2018

Dr. Laura Chesson, Superintendent
Groton-Dunstable Regional School District
145 Main Street
P.O. Box 729
Groton, MA 01450

Re: Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, Florence Roche School

Dear Dr. Chesson:

I would like to thank you and your team for meeting with Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") staff on October 22, 2018 to review enrollment projections and methodologies for the Florence Roche School project (the "Proposed Project") in the Town of Groton. As discussed, the next critical step is for the MSBA and the District to agree on a design enrollment for the Florence Roche School.

The Groton-Dunstable Regional School District (the "District") presently has two schools that accommodate the District's grade K-4 enrollment. The Florence Roche School serves the grade K-4 enrollment from the Town of Groton and the Swallow/Union School serves the grade K-4 enrollment from the Town of Dunstable.

The MSBA understands that due to current enrollment pressures at the Florence Roche School, approximately 120 students from the Town of Groton who attend the Swallow/Union School in Dunstable and the District, remaining consistent with its goal to maintain community elementary schools, would like to return those Groton students and relocate the District's entire pre-kindergarten enrollment to the Florence Roche School. Please note, as discussed during the enrollment meeting, the MSBA does not project pre-K enrollment in its figures, and the determination of allowable space for pre-K programming will be determined during the next phase of the MSBA's process at the time of the review of the District's proposed educational space program for the Proposed Project. Accordingly, this analysis will be particularly focused on the enrollment projections for grades K-4 from the Town of Groton.

The table below illustrates the Town of Groton's K-12 enrollment during the most recent 6 year period, including enrollment for the current school year (2018-2019) as reported by the District to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education ("DESE"). The total grade K-4 enrollment in the Town of Groton as reported by the District for the current school year is 662 students, which reflects the maximum grade K-4 enrollment reported in the preceding 6 years. Additionally, the current year's grade K-4 enrollment reflects an increase of approximately 33

students (5%) from the average grade K-4 enrollment reported during the preceding 6 year period.¹

YEAR	K-4	5-8	9-12	TOTAL
2013	640	651	618	1,909
2014	651	628	612	1,891
2015	611	607	608	1,826
2016	585	609	592	1,786
2017	626	580	588	1,794
2018	662	556	574	1,792

The MSBA understands that the District is proposing an enrollment to accommodate approximately 700 students in grades K-4 from the Town of Groton at the Florence Roche School. The enrollment in grades K-4 reported to DESE for the 2017-2018 school year from the Town of Groton was 662 students, which includes the 120 students from the Town of Groton who are sent to the Swallow/Union School in the Town of Dunstable.

With respect to future enrollments in the Town of Groton, the MSBA's base enrollment forecast indicates Groton's grade K-4 enrollment will decline slightly over the next 5 years then increase slightly through the 2028-2029 school year. The average Town of Groton grade K-4 enrollment forecast for the projected period through the 2028-2029 school year is 630 students.

As a result of a sensitivity analysis performed by the MSBA on this base enrollment projection and further discussion with the District, the following adjustments have been made to the base enrollment projection:

- Out-of-District Enrollment
 - In order to adjust for fluctuations to the out-of-district enrollment patterns of Groton's residents over time, the MSBA has made an additional adjustment to the base enrollment projection.
 - In order to make this adjustment, the MSBA adjusted the grade to grade survival ratios for grades K-4 by a total of 3.3% throughout a four-year period in the projection.
 - This adjustment added approximately 15 students to the average grades K-4 enrollment as compared to the projection without this adjustment.

As a result of the analysis on the base enrollment forecast, the historical enrollment trends of the District, and the adjustments described above, the MSBA recommends a design enrollment of 645 students for the Florence Roche School.

As stated previously, the determination of allowable space for pre-K Program will be determined during the feasibility study. Neither the enrollment recommendation nor the inclusion of space for pre-K in the feasibility study represent an affirmation by the MSBA for approval and/or

¹ The District provided the 6-year data reflected in the table as DESE data is for the region only.

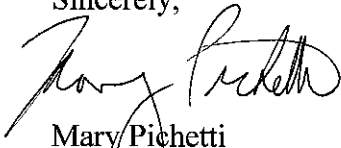
funding of any options and is intended only to provide a framework to inform the feasibility study to be conducted as a means of determining the most cost effective and educationally sound solution to be agreed upon by the District and the MSBA. If the relocation of the pre-K program is included in a preferred solution, the District will be required to document in the Preferred Schematic Report the proposed future use or disposition of any existing spaces vacated or otherwise reprogrammed as a result of this potential project, and that the preferred solution has been approved by the School Committee and other necessary District officials, and, if applicable, DESE. Further, the MSBA will require a written plan from the District describing the process for determining local support for the potential relocation of this program.

The MSBA believes that this design enrollment recommendation will position the District to efficiently meet space capacity needs throughout future enrollment variations. Please sign and return the attached certification on or before Tuesday, November 20, 2018 to confirm agreement on this design enrollment.

If the District feels that this design enrollment does not meet the needs of the District, please respond to this letter via e-mail to Jess Deleconio and propose three meeting/conference call times for which the District can be available to discuss enrollment.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jess Deleconio (Jess.Deleconio@MassSchoolBuildings.org) at 617-720-4466.

Sincerely,



Mary Pichetti
Director of Capital Planning

Cc: Legislative Delegation
Marlena Gilbert, Chair, Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee
Michael Knight, Director of Business and Finance, Groton-Dunstable Regional School District
File: 10.2 Letters (Region 2)

**MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY
GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
FLORENCE ROCHE SCHOOL
DESIGN ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATION**

As a result of a collaborative analysis with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") of enrollment projections and space capacity needs for the proposed project at the Florence Roche School, the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District hereby acknowledges and agrees that the design of the proposed project at the Florence Roche School shall be based on an enrollment of no more than 645 students in grades K-4. The Groton-Dunstable Regional School District further acknowledges and agrees that, pursuant to 963 CMR 2.00 *et seq.*, the MSBA shall determine the square feet per student space allowance and total square footage for a/an elementary school serving 645 students in grades K-4. The Groton-Dunstable Regional School District acknowledges and agrees that it has no right or entitlement to any particular design enrollment, square feet per student space allowance, or total square footage and that it has no right or entitlement to a design enrollment any greater than 645 students for the Florence Roche School, and further acknowledges and agrees that it shall not bring any claim or action, legal or equitable, against the MSBA, or any of its officers or employees, for the purpose of obtaining an increase in the design enrollment of the Florence Roche School that it has acknowledged and agreed to herein. The Groton-Dunstable Regional School District further acknowledges and agrees that, among other things, the design enrollment, square feet per student space allowance, and total square footage of the Florence Roche School shall be subject to the approval of the MSBA's Board and that the final approval of a proposed project at the Florence Roche School shall be within the sole discretion of the MSBA's Board.

The undersigned, for themselves and the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, hereby certify that they have read and understand the contents of this Design Enrollment Certification and that each of the above statements is true, complete and accurate. The undersigned also hereby certify that they have been duly authorized by the appropriate governmental body to execute this Certification on behalf of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District and to bind the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District to its terms.

Chief Executive Officer

Duly Authorized Representative of School
Committee

Date

Date

Superintendent of Schools

Date

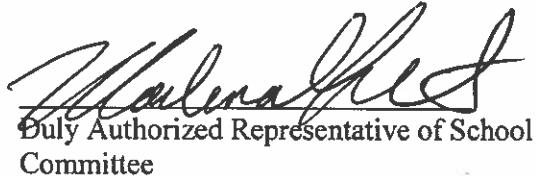
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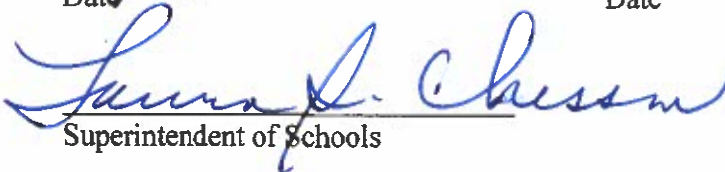
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Chief Executive Officer

11/16/18
Date


Duly Authorized Representative of School Committee

11/19/18
Date


Superintendent of Schools

11/16/18
Date